

DEPARTMENT FOR ANTI-DOPING
OF THE CROATIAN INSTITUTE FOR TOXICOLOGY AND ANTI-DOPING

2017
ANNUAL
REPORT

INTRODUCTION	4	2
1. IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF LEGAL FRAMEWORK	6	
2. CONDUCTING DOPING CONTROLS, INVESTIGATIONS AND RESULTS MANAGEMENT	6	
3. DOPING PREVENTION	11	
4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	16	
5. THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS	18	
6. MEDICINE AND SCIENCE	19	
7. PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	20	

INTRODUCTION

CROATIAN NO TO DOPING!

The basic goal of the Department for Anti-Doping (hereinafter: Department) of the Croatian Institute for Toxicology and Anti-Doping (hereinafter: CITA) is the protection of athletes' basic rights to participate in sports without doping and to promote health, fairness and equality for all athletes in that manner.

This goal is achieved through creation and implementation of harmonized, uniformed and effective anti-doping programs at national and international levels.

In achieving the goal and through its Department, CITA proposes and implements measures in the fight against doping, applies the **CITA Anti-Doping Rules**, the provisions of the **UNESCO convention**, the **World Anti-Doping Code**, rules of international sports federations and the International Olympic Committee, and conducts systematic monitoring and coordinating of activities of government and non-governmental organizations.

In the fight against doping, CITA cooperates with the **Ministry of Health**, the **Central State Office for Sports**, **Ministry of Science and Education**, the **Ministry of the Interior**, the **Customs Administration**, the **State Attorney's Office**, the **Office of the Ombudsman for Children**, the **Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs**, **Ministry of Culture – UNESCO Office**, the **Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices**, the **Office for Combating Narcotic Drug Abuse** and **national anti-doping organizations from other countries**.

CITA's non-governmental partners in the fight against doping in sport are **UNESCO**, **WADA**, the **European Council**, **iNADO**, the **Croatian Olympic Committee**, the **Croatian Paralympic Committee**, the **Croatian Olympic Committee's Health Commission**, the **School of Medicine, University of Zagreb**, the **Croatian Medical Chamber**, the **Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Zagreb**, the **Croatian Olympic Academy**, the **Croatian School Sports Federation**, **UEFA** and other **international and national sports federations and clubs**.

In 2017, the Department was active in seven main areas:

1. Implementation and improvement of legal framework
2. Conducting doping controls, investigations and results management
3. Doping prevention
4. International cooperation
5. Issuing Therapeutic Use Exemptions
6. Medicine and science
7. Premises and equipment maintenance.

THE REPORT

1. IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Through its Anti-Doping Rules, in 2017 CITA continues to implement the provisions of the World Anti-Doping Code, the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions, the International Standard for Testing and Investigations, the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information, the International Standard for Laboratories and the 2017 Prohibited List.

As part of the initiative to establish an independent, autonomous and recognizable national organization for the fight against doping in sport, CITA Department for Anti-Doping, together with the Croatian Olympic Committee, sent a letter to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health and the State Secretary for Sports asking for urgent harmonization of the legal status of the national anti-doping organization in accordance with the provisions of the Act Ratifying the International Convention against Doping in Sport by establishing an independent legal entity for the fight against doping. Only a strong, independent and adequately funded national anti-doping organization, which can autonomously adopt implementing decisions and perform activities in compliance with the Code, can be successful in protecting human rights and the health of athletes, as well as the core values of sport and its integrity. This is the right way for the Republic of Croatia to demonstrate an uncompromising stand in the eradication of doping in sport and to protect national sports interests. The proposed status change of the national anti-doping organization would allow for better harmonization with the UNESCO Convention, the World Anti-Doping Code and the Council of Europe Convention, and to act in accordance with Article 10.10 and Chapter 12 of the CITA Anti-Doping Rules, which is not possible at this moment due to the position of the anti-doping organization.

At the first session of the Governing Council in its new composition, the need for the independence of toxicology and anti-doping was emphasized. The Chairman of the Governing Council announced the initiative to establish an independent national anti-doping organization which would be included in the new Health Care Act.

As part of the initiative to amend the national anti-doping legislation, we have collaborated with a taskforce for the adoption of the proposal of the Sports Act in relation to anti-doping.

CITA Department for Anti-Doping continued the initiative to amend national legislation in relation to anti-doping in sport at the Ministry of Health in order to better align the position of the national anti-doping organization with the UNESCO Convention, the World Anti-Doping Code and the Council of Europe Convention. In October 2017, the President of the Croatian Olympic Committee and the Head of the CITA Anti-Doping Department asked in writing for the opinion of the WADA Director General on the need to establish an independent national anti-doping organization for better achievement of the objectives of the International Convention against Doping in Sport (Republic of Croatia is a signatory to the Convention).

Given the initiative launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Health for the harmonization of the List of substances prohibited in sports (Official Gazette, No. 116/13), adopted by the Minister of Health pursuant to Article 383, item 4, relating to Article 191 of the Criminal Code (Official Gazette, No. 125/2011 and 144/2012) was not implemented in 2017, it was agreed the harmonization of the 2018 List of prohibited substances will be performed as soon as possible.

In February 2017, CITA received WADA's Code Compliance Questionnaire of the work of the CITA Department for Anti-Doping with the provisions of the Code and the International standards. In May 2017, the answers to the questions were submitted. In June 2017, WADA Corrective Action Report and the Corrective Action Plan for compliance with the provisions of the Code were received. The Department for Anti-Doping started to implement the corrective measures. A report on the first part of the implemented measures was submitted to WADA in November 2017. At the beginning of December 2017, WADA's Director General for Compliance confirmed CITA achieved compliance with the provisions of the Code in the most important issues.

2. CONDUCTING DOPING CONTROLS, INVESTIGATIONS AND RESULTS MANAGEMENT

The testing in 2017 was conducted in accordance with the Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis (TDSSA). In accordance with the aforementioned document, a system for testing plans and implementation of doping controls for 2017 was created.

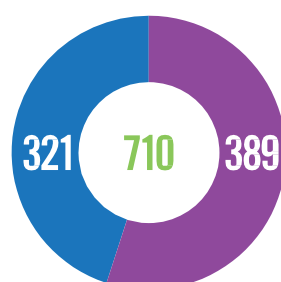
TESTING PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION

The 2017 Testing plan was created in accordance with the Article 4.2 of the WADA International Standard for Testing and Investigation, in which risk factors for each sport were estimated, taking into account the history of doping and the popularity of certain sports in the Republic of Croatia. Special attention was paid to the monitoring of certain sports and athletes. The WADA Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis (TDSSA2017) was consistently applied in the Testing plan.

In 2017, a total of 710 doping controls were conducted in the national program, 321 of which in competition, and 389 out of competition. 102 blood tests and 608 urine tests were performed.

Table of the national testing program in 2017

SPORT	IN COMPETITION	OUT OF COMPETITION
VOLLEYBALL	35	25
ATHLETICS	23	55
GYMNASTICS	0	24
FOOTBALL	60	35
BASKETBALL	62	28
HANDBALL	56	28
WATER POLO	20	18
SKIING	0	3
SWIMMING	8	6
ICE HOCKEY	8	8
JUDO	10	12
SAILING	0	10
TAEKWONDO	6	9
CYCLING	0	24
WRESTLING	6	25
SHOOTING	0	11
ROWING	0	12
BOX	5	6
KARATE	5	9
DIVING	4	0
HANDBALL-DEAF	0	23
TABLE TENNIS-DEAF	0	5
ATHLETICS-DEAF	0	2
WEIGHTLIFTING	9	0
POWERLIFTING	4	0
ARCHERY	0	3
TAEKWONDO-DEAF	0	2
CURLING-DEAF	0	6
TOTAL	321	389



KONTROLE OBAVLJENE U OKVIRU NACIONALNOG PROGRAMA U 2017.

- UKUPNO
- NA NATJECANJU
- IZVAN NATJECANJA

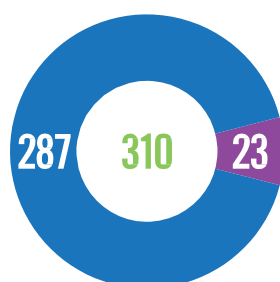
110 tests on exogenous administration of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents, 96 tests on exogenous administration of growth hormone release factors, and 72 tests on exogenous administration of the growth hormone were performed.

As part of the international cooperation a total of 310 doping controls were conducted, 287 of which in competition, and 23 out of competition. 36 blood tests and 274 urine tests were performed.

Table of the international testing program in 2017 (international cooperation)

SPORT	IN COMPETITION	OUT OF COMPETITION
ATHLETICS	18	0
GYMNASTICS	6	0
WATER POLO	4	0
SKATING	8	0
SKIING	10	0
FENCING	2	0
JUDO	62	0
WRESTLING	0	1
ROWING	0	10
WEIGHTLIFTING	135	0
ATHLETICS-PARALYMPIC	2	0
SHOOTING-PARALYMPIC	4	0
MMA	0	1
SAVATE	8	2
CROSSBOW	3	0
UNDERWATER FISHING	3	0
SITTING VOLLEYBALL	22	9
TOTAL	287	23

8



KONTROLE OBAVLJENE U OKVIRU MEĐUNARODNE SURADNJE U 2017.

- UKUPNO
- NA NATJECANJU
- IZVAN NATJECANJA

An increase in the number of tests from the planned 600 samples to 710 tested samples was subject to the requirements of the Athletic Passport Management Unit (APMU) for additional analyses within the steroidal module of the passport and the need for testing that could not have been anticipated at the beginning of the year.

In cooperation with international sports institutions, athletes were tested during major sports events in the Republic of Croatia, namely the "Snow Queen" World Cup slalom race, the Junior Fencing World Cup, the European Weightlifting Championship, the Gymnastics World Cup, the Crossbow World Cup, the Euro-African Spearfishing Championship, Hanžeković Memorial, the Shooting Para Sport World Cup, the Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating, the Judo Grand Prix, the Junior Judo World Championship, the Europe Sitting Volleyball Championships for Men and Women, and a number of international tournaments in various sports in the Republic of Croatia.

In accordance with Article 4.2 of the International Standard for Testing and Investigation, we have created a Test plan with the minimum number of required analyses and in accordance with the Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis TDSSA2017. CITA implemented the Plan, and WADA monitored and controlled the implementation.

Since 2014, CITA has been included in the steroidal module of the athlete biological passport program, which is very reliable in detecting the lowest concentrations of exogenously administered substances of S1 category (anabolic steroids) belonging to unspecified substances. The implementation of this program continued in 2017.

In agreement with WADA and the Seibersdorf Laboratory, a haematological module of the athlete biological passport was introduced in the second half of 2017, which will become mandatory in 2018 after a transitional period in 2017. In 2017, the haematological module of the athlete biological passport program included seven athletes.

REGISTERED TESTING POOL

Intelligent testing resulted in major changes in the approach, mode, and composition of the Registered Testing Pool. The number of athletes in the Registered Testing Pool varied from 60 to 90 athletes who have been included in the Registered Testing Pool based on the Test plan and in accordance with the assessment of the risk of doping in individual sports and of individual athletes. Athletes were provided with assistance in delivering their Whereabouts data, education and a 24/7 availability via telephone. The WADA Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis was applied to the Registered Testing Pool in accordance with the Testing plan.

DOPING CONTROL OFFICIALS

In 2017, the Rules on Accreditation, Re-accreditation and Supervision of the Work of the Doping Control Officials came into force. Supervision of the work of the Doping Control Officials was carried out on a broader scale than in previous years, in accordance with the new requirements of the Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis. In 2017, six new candidates for Doping Control Officials were educated in Zagreb.

The supervision of competitions was conducted at international competitions, Croatian championships and league competitions in accordance with the Testing plan.

TESTING

Monitoring of sport specific analyses was enabled by the enhancement of the APLIKAT program.

SAMPLE MANAGEMENT

In order to strengthen the chain of custody and preserve the quality of samples for analysis as much as possible, in addition to the existing measures and a storage and warning system, additional procedures for improving the quality of samples during transport using portable cool boxes with data logger were introduced.

INVESTIGATIONS

CITA Department for Anti-Doping collected and processed data together with the national anti-doping organizations of neighbouring countries.

RESULTS MANAGEMENT

As part of the results management, five sessions of the CITA Hearing panel were held.

- In the case number SP 01/17 the athlete tested positive for a prohibited substance, but it has been found the substance was applied for medical reasons. The Hearing panel decided the athlete did not violate provision 2.1 of the Rules and the provisional suspension was revoked.
- In the case number SP 02/17, two athletes and one sports official violated provisions of CITA Anti-Doping Rules, and athletes were prohibited from competing and participating in all sports activities for a period of four (4) years for violation of provisions 2.3 and 2.5 of the Rules, respectively. The sports official was prohibited from competing and participating in all sports activities for a period of four (2) years for violation of provision 2.9 of the Rules.
- In the case number SP 03/17, the athlete violated provision 2.3 of the Rules and has been prohibited from competing and participating in all sports activities for a period of four (4) years.

- In the case number SP 04/17, based on the decision of the Appeal panel ŽP 01/17, the Hearing panel again considered case number SP 02/17 in relation to the athlete for violation of provision 2.5 of the Rules and the sports official for violation of provision 2.9 of the Rules. The athlete has again been prohibited from competing and participating in all sports activities for a period of 4 (four) years, and the first instance measure (prohibited from participating in all sports activities) imposed on the sports official was revoked.
- In the case number SP 05/17, the athlete violated provision 2.1 of the Rules and has been prohibited from competing and participating in all sports activities for a period of eight (8) months.

In 2017, CITA Hearing panel held five (5) sessions for violation of provisions of the CITA Anti-Doping Rules:

Table of sessions of the Hearing panel

SESSION DATE	SPORT	VIOLATOR	TYPE AND GROUP OF SUBSTANCE FROM THE LIST	DISCIPLINARY MEASURE	VIOLATED PROVISION OF THE RULES
27.2.2017 7 SP 01/17	basketball	athlete	Methylprednisolone (cat.S9.)	-	2.1
18.4.2017 7 SP 02/17	ice hockey	athlete	-	Period of ineligibility of 4 years	2.3
18.4.2017 7 SP 02/17	ice hockey	athlete	-	Period of ineligibility of 4 years	2.5
18.4.2017 7 SP 02/17	ice hockey	sports official	-	Period of ineligibility of 2 years	2.9
14.6.2017 7 SP 03/17	weightlifting	athlete	-	Period of ineligibility of 4 years	2.3
9.10.2017 7 SP 04/17	ice hockey	athlete	-	Period of ineligibility of 4 years	2.5
9.10.2017 7 SP 04/17	ice hockey	sports official	-	sanction imposed in the first instance of proceedings was revoked	-
5.12.2017 SP 05/17	basketball	athlete	carboxy THC (cat.S8.)	Period of ineligibility of 8 months	2.1

In 2017, CITA Appeal panel held three (3) sessions.

- In the case number ŽP 01/17, the athlete and sports official appealed a decision of the Hearing panel. The Appeal panel accepted their appeals and returned the case to the body of first instance for decision.
- In the case number ŽP 02/17, the athlete's sanction (prohibited from competing and participating in all sports activities for a period of four (4) years for a violation of Article 2.3 of the Rules) was upheld.
- In the case number ŽP 03/17, the Appeal panel held a session on grounds of an appeal by athletes to the decision of the Hearing panel SP 04/17 and an appeal by CITA to the decision in relation to the sports official. The appeals were dismissed.

and the decision of the Hearing panel was upheld – the athlete’s sanction (prohibited from competing and participating in all sports activities for a period of four (4) years for a violation of Article 2.3 of the Rules) was upheld, and the revoking of the decision of the Hearing panel SP 02/17 in relation to the sports official was confirmed.

Table of sessions of the Appeal panel

SESSION DATE	SPORT	VIOLATOR	TYPE AND GROUP OF SUBSTANCE FROM THE LIST	DISCIPLINARY MEASURE	VIOLATED PROVISION OF THE RULES
13.7.2017 ŽP 01/17	ice hockey	athlete	-	case returned for first instance decision	-
13.7.2017 ŽP 01/17	ice hockey	sports official	-	case returned for first instance decision	-
7.9.2017 ŽP 02/17	weightlifting	athlete	-	sanction confirmed (period of ineligibility of 4 years)	2.3
6.12.2017 ŽP 03/17	ice hockey	athlete	-	imposed sanction confirmed period of ineligibility of 4 years	2.5
6.12.2017 ŽP 03/17	ice hockey	sports official	-	imposed sanction confirmed—first instance sanction revoked (period of ineligibility of 2 years)	-

11

Proceedings before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

On April 27, 2017, the athlete’s appeal filed with CAS on February 18, 2016 was dismissed, and the Decision of the CITA Hearing panel from February 1, 2016, according to which the athlete was prohibited from competing and participating in all sports activities for a period of four (4) years for the violation of Article 2.1 of the Rules, was confirmed in full.

SESSION DATE	SPORT	VIOLATOR	TYPE AND GROUP OF SUBSTANCE	DISCIPLINARY MEASURE	VIOLATED PROVISION OF THE RULES
27.04.2017 CAS2016/A/4458	athletics - marathon	athlete	erythropoietin-receptor agonist (cat.S2.1.)	period of ineligibility of 4 years	2.1

3. DOPING PREVENTION

As in the previous year, we continued to inform and educate target groups on the harmful consequences of doping and the applicable regulations. Target groups were athletes from the Registered Testing Pool, professional athletes, athletes competing in top leagues, international athletes, athletes from “sports at risk”, Olympic candidates, and other participants in top sport (trainers, physicians, physiotherapists, etc.). Amateur and recreational athletes and sports officials were also educated. The education was performed in form of lectures, through the Athlete Outreach Program, the NE!DOPINGU magazine, our website, WADA Alpha Education Program, brochures and flyers, and other activities.

LECTURES

During 2017, a total of nineteen (19) lectures were held, and approximately 750 people participated in this form of education.

Table with lectures held in 2017

DATE	VENUE	GROUP	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
18.3.17	Zagreb	athletic club Maksimir, athletes and sports officials	10
25.3.17	Zagreb	U-18 hockey national team, players and staff (physician, physiotherapist, national team's director and coach)	35
28.3.17	Zagreb	athletic club Sljeme, athletes and sports officials (coaches and physicians)	15
12.4.17	Zagreb	hockey - seniors, A national team, players and staff (physician, physiotherapist, secretary of the federation, national team's director and coach)	35
25.4.17	Poreč	Sports association of Poreč, sport officials of sports associations	60
26.4.17	Poreč	AK Maximus, athletes and coach	20
26.4.17	Zagreb	symposium "Doping in Top Sport" (COC), sports officials and top athletes	120
27.5.17	Zagreb, Faculty of Kinesiology	PhD students of the Faculty of Kinesiology	5
23.5.17	Zagreb	VERN University, journalism students (3rd year) and a sport journalism professor	25
31.5.17	Zagreb	AK Mladost, athletes and sport officials (physiotherapist, physician, club's director)	35
27.6.17	Zagreb, CITA	sanitary engineering students, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina	20
4.10.17	Osijek	NK Osijek, athletes and staff (physician, physiotherapist, club's director, coach)	25
6.10.17	Split	symposium "Doping in Top Sport" (COC), sports officials and top athletes	80
16.10.17	Zagreb	NK Deportivo-Rudeš, athletes and staff (coach, physiotherapist)	25
2.11.17	Poreč	sitting volleyball national team, female athletes	50
7.11.17	Poreč	competitors and organizing committee of the Paravolley Europe	150
11.-15.12.17	Rijeka, Just sport project	kinesiologists, sports physicians and fitness centres trainers (3 lectures)	35
TOTAL			745

Out of the held lectures, the lecture held for the PhD students of the Faculty of Kinesiology, the lecture for the students of the third year of journalism at VERN University, and the lecture for sanitary engineering students from Mostar should be noted. CITA Department for Anti-Doping also held lectures in two symposiums “Doping in top sport” organized by the Croatian Olympic Committee (COC). As part of the European Volleyball Competition organized Paravolley Europe, a lecture on anti-doping for the women’s sitting volleyball national team was held as part of the international PVE conference titled “Doping in sport”. As part of the international “Just Sport” project, which is operated by Rijeka Sports Federation, representatives of CITA Department for Anti-Doping held three lectures for kinesiologists, sports physicians and trainers in fitness centres from Rijeka, Zadar and Osijek.

In the reporting period, the good cooperation with the Croatian Olympic Committee’s Health Commission was continued.

“DOPING IN SPORT” COURSE

During 2017, CITA Department for Anti-Doping organized two (2) postgraduate courses named “Doping in sport” in cooperation with the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Zagreb and the Croatian Medical Chamber. As part of the courses, a total of fifteen thematic lectures were held. The course was awarded with eight points for listeners (8) and ten (10) points for lecturers by the Croatian Medical Chamber.

Table with postgraduate courses “Doping in sport” held in 2017

DATE	VENUE	GROUP	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
21.10.17	Zagreb, CITA counselling for anti-doping and rational pharmacotherapy	doctors of medicine	10
25.11.17	Zagreb, CITA counselling for anti-doping and rational pharmacotherapy	doctors of medicine	10
TOTAL			20

13

ATHLETE OUTREACH PROGRAM

In the same period, seven (7) Athlete Outreach Programs were implemented with a total of thirteen (13) activities – Athlete Outreach Days – about 1,100 people were educated.

Table with Athlete Outreach Programs held in 2017

DATE	LOCATION	NAME	NUMBER	PEOPLE EDUCATE
18.2.17	Zagreb	State Wrestling Championship U-23	1	50
25.2.17	Zagreb	Croatian Judo Championship	1	70
10.-12.3.17	Zagreb	“Doping nije hOkej”	3	80
9.4.17	Zagreb	Sportske novosti cross race (Play True Day)	1	300
23.-27.04.17	Poreč	Final stage of the State Championship of Primary and Secondary Schools	5	400
23.09.17	Zagreb, Jarun	European Week of Sport	1	50
28.09.17	Zagreb, Arena	School Sport Day, European Week of Sport	1	150
TOTAL			13	1,100

In total, 32 activities were organized in the stated period through lectures, organization of courses and the Athlete Outreach Program. The 2017 strategic plan provided for 30 planned activities in total.

PRINTED MATERIALS

The 2017 Prohibited list was printed at the end of 2016 with a total of 1,000 copies in standard format and 1,000 pocket-sized copies, and it was distributed to users in January 2017. The List was posted on the website of the Department for Anti-Doping mid-December 2016, where it was available to the website users throughout the year.



The 2018 Prohibited list was printed at the end of 2017 with a total of 1,000 copies in standard format and 1,000 pocket-sized copies, and was posted on the website of the Department for Anti-Doping mid-December 2017.

By the end of the reporting period, six (6) issues of the NE!DOPINGU magazine were published (each in 1,000 copies), as planned for 2017. The magazine was distributed to national federations, sports clubs, schools, health institutions, athletes, sports officials and members of the Commissions within the CITA Department for Anti-Doping.

In the last quarter of 2017, in cooperation with WADA, activities on preparing the “Parents Guide” brochure have begun, which should become an additional tool for educating young athletes and their parents. The material is planned to be printed in 2018 and distributed to the target groups in cooperation with the Central State Office for Sports.

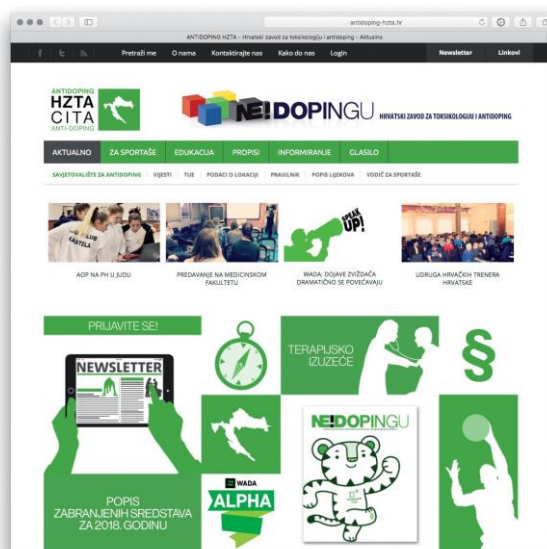
WADA ALPHA

The Department for Anti-Doping, in cooperation with WADA, started the promotion of the Athlete Learning Program about Health and Anti-Doping (ALPHA) project in early 2017. The ALPHA online education program in the Croatian language was posted on the website of the CITA Department for Anti-Doping at the beginning of the year, making it accessible to athletes and other persons who have an interest in the field of anti-doping. It is a program designed for comprehensive education of athletes in the field of anti-doping, which includes a knowledge assessment and enables the obtaining of certificates. During the reporting period, additional activities have started, in cooperation with WADA, to support the setting up of the Croatian version of the ALPHA program on a new platform. The new platform should enable a system for monitoring the persons in the ALPHA program, which can be significant for the measurement of interest for the field of anti-doping, and the adequacy and effectiveness of this program related to anti-doping education. By the end of the reporting period, activities related to migration of the ALPHA program to the new platform are under way.

According to data received from WADA by December 31, 2017, the ALPHA program included 284 Croatian athletes.

WEBSITE

The website of CITA Department for Anti-Doping has been actively used for the purpose of continuous quality information and education of all participants in sport. It enabled us to give athletes and all interested parties access to a List of registered medicines in Croatia containing some of the substances on the Prohibited list. This List is continuously updated on a monthly base in cooperation with the Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices. We also provided support for all other segments of anti-doping activities (education, therapeutic use exemptions, legislation, brochures, etc.) through the website. As part of this support, WADA set up a video explaining the doping control procedure with Croatian translation.



WEBSITE OF THE

ANDREAS KRIEGER EDUCATIONAL VIDEO

The Croatian Institute for Toxicology and Anti-Doping, in collaboration with the German National Anti-Doping Agency, prepared a video story in the Croatian language about Andreas Krieger, which deals with the issue of institutionalized doping, and is a powerful educational tool for the purpose of deterrence from doping. The link to that video is posted on our website, and we can also use the video in our educational activities.

NEWSLETTER

During the reporting period, all preparation phases for an anti-doping newsletter implementation were performed. The purpose of the planned newsletter is to intensify communication with interested parties in the sports community in Croatia. With regard to the implementation of the newsletter, invitations were sent to all national sports federations, the Croatian Olympic Committee, the media houses and the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Science and Education, the Central State Office for Sports and other persons with whom communication on anti-doping was recorded. A system for the subscription to the newsletter is also posted on the website. The newsletter also enables us to analyse the effectiveness of its implementation in terms of an increase in the number of visits to the website through the newsletter, and indirectly also the effect on the communication of anti-doping message or doping prevention.

By the end of the reporting period, a total of eight (8) newsletters were sent, and each included at least three information, whether it was the news we are posting on the website, in a press release or some other news or information important for monitoring anti-doping issues.

SPEAK UP (PRIJAVI DOPING)

During the reporting period, preparations were made for setting up the Croatian version of Speak Up, inspired by WADA. This is a platform where suspicions of doping can be anonymously reported. At the end of the reporting period, the platform is in the final testing phase and will be operational early 2018. This system should contribute to the collection of information on the use of doping.

PLAY TRUE DAY

Based on the previous great experience of Erasmus + and the prePLAY projects in pursuit of the intense anti-doping promotion of the Play True Day in 2016, we continued the initiative in 2017 and marked the day at the Sportske novosti cross race. On April 9, 2017 at the Bundeck Lake in Zagreb the traditional 34th Sportske novosti cross race took place. More than 3,000 primary and secondary school students from all over Croatia and students from the University of Zagreb competed in the race. Many Croatian athletes, who are members of national teams, mostly in athletics, also participated in the cross race. Several hundreds of participants in the race visited our stands with the intent of learning about clean sport, sport without doping.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Following the participation in Erasmus + and the prePLAY project during 2015 and 2016, media activities were also underway in the reporting period, followed by interviews with Sportske novosti and Jutarnji list on the topic of doping prevention.

- We participated in the HRT 4 TV show “Guide to European Funds” where we shared the experiences gained in the two-year European project prePLAY.
- In December 2017, we took part in a round table discussion and a press conference as part of the international “Just Sport” project in Rijeka.
- Dozens of interviews on national and global doping issues in sport were published in Večernji list, Sportske novosti and various websites.

Public relations were intensified in 2016, and we continued this good practice in 2017. Good relations with the media are of great importance for effective anti-doping work.



4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

CITA Department for Anti-Doping has been working to strengthen its cooperation with other anti-doping organizations, state bodies, and scientific and health institutions dealing with doping in sport.

In 2017, CITA representatives participated in the following activities as part of international cooperation:

- On January 20, 2017, Mr Guenter Gmeiner, head of the WADA Certified Laboratory for Analysis of doping control samples from Seibersdorf (Austria), visited CITA Department for Anti-Doping. The reason for the meeting was the haematological module of the athlete biological passport. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) reached a decision to introduce such a module and it became mandatory for all national anti-doping organizations from January 1, 2018.
- Annual iNADO Symposium in Lausanne (Switzerland), March 13, 2017. The emphasis of the meeting was on protecting and encouraging “whistle-blowers” in doping.
- WADA’s 12th Annual Symposium in Lausanne (Switzerland), March 14 - 16, 2017. The main topics were the compliance of anti-doping organizations with WADA’s regulations and the good management of anti-doping organizations.
- April 6, 2017 The Croatian Institute for Toxicology and Anti-Doping as a member of Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations (iNADO) fully endorsed the response of the iNADO Board of Directors to the Declaration of the International Olympic Committee from March 16, 2017. In the statement, CITA advocates WADA to be freed from the influence of sporting bodies, giving it more power to impose sanctions in countries where “national” interests undermine clean sport, takes a stand against global bureaucratisation of testing, as well as against giving exclusive rights to impose sanctions to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).
- The Croatian Institute for Toxicology and Anti-Doping (CITA) and the Slovenian Anti-Doping Organization (SLOADO) have maintained good cooperation in the field of anti-doping in sport for years. This long-term cooperation has now been formalized by means of an Agreement on Cooperation in the Fight Against Doping in Sport with a view to further develop and strengthen their mutual relations and cooperation. The Agreement was signed on June 5, 2017.
- The 46th Council of Europe (T-DO) Monitoring Group meeting, Copenhagen, May 3, 2017. A report on evaluation visits to Poland, Ukraine and Bulgaria, and follow-up activities after evaluation visits to Belarus and Moldova was presented at the meeting. An evaluation visit to Greece, scheduled for June 2017, was also announced. A report from the Council of Europe Advisory Groups meeting on science, legal affairs and legal seminars, education and code compliance was presented at the meeting. A medium-term strategy for the period 2018-2020 was introduced. One of the fundamental objectives of the EU strategy is to achieve independence of anti-doping organizations (ADOs).
- The 38th meeting of the Ad Hoc European Committee for WADA (CAHAMA), May 4, 2017, Copenhagen. The WADA International Standard on Compliance with the Code was presented at the meeting, which went into the consultation process in the second part of 2017. The revision of the Code has also been announced in order to adopt a new version of the text which should be adopted in May 2019 at the World Anti-Doping Congress in Katowice, Poland.
- The Advisory Group on Science T-DO meeting on current anti-doping issues in the field of doping prevention was held in Ljubljana on April 10, 2017. The most important aspects of the meeting were to share experiences from programs implemented by ADOs, to exchange information and make suggestions with the aim of improving the doping prevention system.

- The international conference “Doping and Public Health” organized by the Norwegian Anti-Doping Agency and the Ministry of Health and Public Welfare took place from June 7 - 9, 2017 in Oslo, Norway. The main topic was the prevalence of doping in the society and raising awareness of doping as a public health problem.
- On June 12 and 13, 2017 a trilateral meeting (Austria, Slovenia and Croatia) was held in Vienna. The topics of the meeting included joint action in the research of the background of a doping case, the compliance of the organizations’ work with the WADA Code, the compliance of anti-doping organizations with data protection rights in the EU in 2018, the beginning of cooperation with the laboratory in Seibersdorf on the introduction of the haematological module of the athlete biological passport.
- From September 20 to 23, 2017, a WADA Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) Symposium was held in Helsinki, Finland. The symposium covered topics from the field of Therapeutic Use Exemptions. All participants were interactively engaged in the work of the symposium through an electronically connected platform and had the opportunity to ask questions and to give answers to the questions asked. Various scenarios/cases related to the approval of TUEs were discussed. The issues of retroactive approval of Therapeutic Use Exemptions, and issues of protecting personal and sensitive information have been discussed as well.
- The 39th meeting of the Ad Hoc European Committee for WADA (CAHAMA), September 13, 2017, Madrid. During the two-day session, CAHAMA delegates prepared a mandate for European representatives at the WADA Executive Committee meeting held on September 17, 2017 in Paris. Delegates supported the proposal of the resolution on consequences for non-compliant states by UNESCO. The resolution proposal was presented at the UNESCO meeting in Paris on September 25 and 26, 2017.
- The 6th meeting of the signatories to the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport was held on September 25 and 26, 2017 in Paris. The most important topics of the meeting were the adoption of a proposal on compulsory evaluation of compliance of anti-doping activities in individual countries with the provisions of the Convention. Individual countries are obliged to report any observed omissions, and any possible sanctions at government level. It is considered the measures to be taken by UNESCO should be similar to those implemented by WADA in monitoring anti-doping organizations. In addition, a proposal that organized classes on anti-doping in schools should be mandatory in each signatory state was adopted, which will be considered a condition for recognizing compliance with the provisions of the Convention in individual countries. A proposal for the harmonisation of UNESCO’s procedures with procedures by WADA and the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention was also adopted with the aim of minimizing any overlap between their activities. The Report of the Independent UNESCO Commission on the doping scandal in Russia and the measures implemented by UNESCO and the Russian Federation in order to achieve compliance with the Convention were presented. The divergence of delegates’ views and significant differences in the reports and the assessment of necessary corrective measures between UNESCO and WADA was evident at the meeting.
- On November 7, 2017, a lecture “Doping in Sport” was held as part of international cooperation with Paravolley Europe at the PVE Conference at the Europe Sitting Volleyball Championship in Poreč.
- November 20, 2017 The Seibersdorf Laboratory organized an annual meeting and the 10th Anti-Doping Workshop Titled “Athlete biological passport: Challenges and Experiences”.
- December 11 - 15, 2017, CITA lecturers held three lectures and took part in a round table discussion and a press conference as part of the international “Just Sport” project in Rijeka, organized by Rijeka Sports Federation. Partners in the project include the Slovenian Anti-Doping Organization, the Italian CESIE (the Agency for Preparation and Implementation of Projects), the Bulgarian sports development association, the Västerbottens Sports Association (Sweden) and the City of Mirandella from Portugal. The main objective is to raise awareness of negative consequences of doping in a recreational environment.

- During 2017, CITA Department for Anti-Doping completed a WADA questionnaire assessing the compliance of the CITA's work with the Code, a UNESCO questionnaire assessing the anti-doping activity of the Republic of Croatia, a Council of Europe questionnaire assessing anti-doping activities in the Republic of Croatia, and an INADO questionnaire which collected data on CITA's financing in its function as a national anti-doping organization.

5. THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS

During the reporting period, the work of the Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee was performed in accordance with the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions and the Therapeutic Use Exemption Guidelines.

During the reporting period we received fourteen (14) applications for therapeutic use exemptions (TUE). Out of these, in ten (10) cases the criteria for a consideration at the session of the TUE Committee were met, while in four (4) of the cases these criteria were not met. Ten (10) sessions of the TUE Committee were held during the same period and ten (10) valid applications for therapeutic use exemptions were considered. One case was not resolved during the reporting period, as further medical documentation was requested (opinion by the specialist).

Table with granted Therapeutic Use Exemptions

ACTIVE SUBSTANCE	DIAGNOSIS	TUE TYPE
dexamethasone	lumbago with sciatica	A
dexamethasone	lumbago with sciatica	A
methylprednisolone	Hodgkin's lymphoma	A
somatotropin	hypopituitarism	A
vilanterol	allergic asthma	A
dexamethasone	urticaria	RA
epinephrine, dexamethasone, hydroxyethyl starch	anaphylaxis	RA
methylprednisolone	algodystrophy	RA
methylprednisolone	allergic asthma	RA

Legend: RA – retroactive TUE, A – prospective TUE

Table with current applications for TUEs

ACTIVE SUBSTANCE	DIAGNOSIS	TUE TYPE
methylprednisolone	lacunar angina	RA

Out of the four (4) cases of applications for TUE in which the criteria for the consideration at the session of TUE Committee were not met, in three (3) cases there was no need for a TUE given the drug and the type of its administration (corticosteroids, beta2-agonists, local administration), and in one case the athlete was of an international level, which falls within the jurisdiction of the international federation.

Table with unfounded applications for Therapeutic Use Exemptions

ACTIVE SUBSTANCE	DIAGNOSIS	REASON
budesonide, formoterol	asthma	local drug administration
fluticasone	allergic rhinitis	local drug administration
methylprednisolone	strain to the semimembranosus muscle	local drug administration
prednisone	nephrotic syndrome	international level

All decisions of the TUE Committee from the reporting period have been entered into the ADAMS system and were thus made available to WADA and other organizations with the right to access data. In this way, the transparency of the procedure for issuing therapeutic use exemptions and the work of the TUE Committee is ensured.

On October 25, 2017, new Rules for the Approval of Therapeutic Use Exemptions came into force. The Rules were published by the Croatian Institute of Toxicology for the purposes of the Department for Anti-Doping, and it came into force by decision of the Governing Council.

The new Rules for the Approval of Therapeutic Use Exemptions extend the mandate period of members of TUE Committee from two to four years.

In accordance with the provisions of the new Rules, the new mandate period for members of TUE Committee runs from November 21, 2017 through November 20, 2021.

6. MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

CITA as an independent national anti-doping organization within the National Anti-Doping Program has the authority and responsibility to encourage and conduct research in the field of doping as provided for in the 2015 CITA Anti-Doping Rules.

CITA SCIENCE COUNCIL

In December 2017, by the decision of the CITA Governing Council the CITA Science Council was established and the Rules of Procedure of the CITA Science council were adopted. The Council shall mainly deal with the issue of medical research in the field of doping in sport. The members of the Council are distinguished experts from the field of medicine who express interest in the field of doping in sport.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORK

In 2017, the development of a method for the detection of erythropoietin and its derivatives, which are difficult to detect using the standard methods, was continued. The benefits of this approach could include faster and cheaper testing of the unauthorized use of erythropoietin derivatives.

At the end of the year, magazine Biosystems quoted in CC, SCI and Chemical Abstracts published a scientific paper:

- Štambuk N, Konjevoda P, Turčić P, Kövér K, Novak Kujundžić R, Manojlović Z, Gabričević M. Genetic coding algorithm for sense and antisense peptide interactions. Biosystems. 2017 Oct 28. pii: S0303-2647(17)30279-4. doi: 10.1016/j.biosystems.2017.10.009. [Epub ahead of print].

Vol 164, Feb 2018, P: 199-216

WORK OF THE COUNSELLING CENTRE FOR ANTI-DOPING AND RATIONAL PHARMACOTHERAPY IN SPORTS

The counselling centre continued to provide services to athletes in competitive and recreational sports, medical staff in sports federations and clubs, occupational medicine and sports medicine specialists, physicians of other specialties involved in treating athletes, sports officials and other persons related to the problems of use of drugs in sports. The services of the counselling centre include:

- counselling about doping in sport,
- counselling regarding pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic properties of a drug in relation to sports activity,
- rationalization of an existing pharmacotherapy,
- dealing with side effects of drugs,
- dealing with resistance to drug therapy, counselling about drug hypersensitivity,

- individualization of therapy with the possible CYP phenotype and genotype determination,
- dealing with irrational polypharmacy,
- recommendation of diagnostic procedures in the sense of re-evaluation of the existing diagnosis
- consultative cooperation with physicians of other profiles regarding pharmacotherapy of athletes.

In 2017, a special emphasis in the work of the counselling centre was on informing users about the pharmacodynamic effects, the purpose and the dangers of taking dietary supplements.

In 2017, numerous consultations were carried out through the work of The Counselling Centre for Anti-Doping and Rational Pharmacotherapy in Sports and sixty-nine (69) inquiries by sports physicians, athletes and trainers concerning the use of drugs and dietary supplements were answered. Most of the questions were related to the safety of taking various dietary supplements. The questions about drugs included taking drugs such as antibiotics, inhaled glucocorticoids, thyroid hormone replacement drugs, progestogens, analgesics, antihistamines, antihypertensives, proton pump inhibitors, antiepileptics, antidepressants, local decongestants, but also anabolic steroids, glucocorticoids, non-specific stimuli and cannabis. A few inquiries about the substances on the List of prohibited substances (Official Gazette, No. 116/13) were received from the Forensic Science Centre Ivan Vučetić and the Customs Office through the Overseas Express Courier.

POSTGRADUATE CONTINUOUS EDUCATION COURSE

In October 2017, in co-operation with the Croatian Medical Chamber and the School of Medicine of the University of Zagreb, CITA organized a course for postgraduate continuous education called "Doping in Sport". The course was held in October and November 2017 at the CITA Counselling Centre for Anti-Doping and Rational Pharmacotherapy in Sports. The lectures as part of the course were held by the physicians of the CITA Department for Anti-Doping and teachers at the School of Medicine of the University of Zagreb. The participants were doctors of medicine. The course was awarded with eight points for listeners and ten points for lecturers by the Croatian Medical Chamber.

7. PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

During 2017, the necessary IT equipment was procured.

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