

Annual  
Report

2021

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DIVISION FOR ANTI-DOPING  
CROATIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH (CIPH)

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## INTRODUCTION

As of January 1, 2019, with the entry into force of the Health Care Act (Official Gazette 100/2018), and in accordance with the provision of Article 274, the Croatian Institute of Public Health (hereinafter referred to as the CIPH) has assumed all obligations and activities of the Croatian Institute for Toxicology and Anti-Doping (hereinafter referred to as CITA). In this transition, CITA Department for Anti-Doping is positioned as Division for Anti-Doping within the Croatian Institute of Public Health (hereinafter referred to as the CIPH Division for Anti-Doping).

The main goal of the CIPH Division for Anti-Doping is to protect the fundamental right of athletes to engage in doping-free sport and thus promote health, fairness and equality for all athletes.

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

In pursuing the goal, through its Division for Anti-Doping, CIPH proposes and implements measures in the fight against doping, applies the CIPH Anti-Doping Rules, the provisions of the UNESCO Convention, the WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) Code, rules of international sports federations and the International Olympic Committee, and conducts systematic monitoring and coordination of activities of government and non-governmental organizations.

For the purpose of implementing measures and activities of the anti-doping program, the Division for Anti-Doping cooperates with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Administration for Sports at the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration, the Ministry of the Interior, the State Attorney's Office, Ministry of Finance – Customs Administration, the Office of the Ombudsman for Children, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Media —UNESCO Department, and the Ministry of Science and Education.

Within the scope of non-governmental organizations, the Division for Anti-Doping cooperates with UNESCO, WADA, Council of Europe, iNADO, CEADO, the Croatian Olympic Committee, the Croatian Paralympic Committee, the Croatian Olympic Committee's Health Commission, the University of Zagreb School of Medicine, the University of Zagreb Faculty of Kinesiology, the University of Zagreb Faculty of Political Sciences, the Croatian Olympic Academy, the Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices of Croatia, the Croatian School Sports Federation, national sports federations and sports clubs in Croatia, national anti-doping organizations from other countries, UEFA, World Athletics (former IAAF), and other international sports federations.

In 2021, CIPH Division for Anti-Doping was active in seven main areas:

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

## 1. LEGAL FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Since 2019, as a legal successor of the CITA, CIPH has become bound by the WADA Code. A Contract has been signed between WADA and CIPH regarding the use of the ADAMS system.

In 2021, the Division for Anti-Doping operated within the framework of the CIPH Anti-Doping Rules. Additional Rules and Rules of Procedure essential for the operations of the Division for Anti-Doping, were as follows: Rules on Doping Control, Rules on Accreditation, Re-accreditation and Supervision of the Work of the Doping Control Officers, Rules on Therapeutic Use Exemptions, Hearing panel and Appeal panel Rules of Procedure, and Science Council Rules of Procedure. The Mandate Councils, established for the implementation of anti-doping activities were as follows: TUE Committees, Hearing Panel, Appeal Panel and Science Council.

### *Harmonization of anti-doping documents with new anti-doping regulations*

In late 2020, for harmonization with the new anti-doping regulations, new anti-doping documents were approved and entered into force on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021: Anti-Doping Rules, Rules on Therapeutic Use Exemptions and Hearing Panel Rules of Procedure.

In 2021, based on the Anti-Doping Rules, the CIPH Division for Anti-Doping implemented the provisions of the WADA Code, of 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, the 2021 Prohibited List, the International Standard on Code Compliance, the International Standard for Education, and the International Standard for Results Management.

Throughout 2021, many meetings organized by CEADO (Central European Anti-Doping Organization) were held online. CEADO members are anti-doping organizations of Austria (NADA Austria), Hungary (HUNADO), Poland (POLADA), Czech Republic (CADC),

Slovakia (SADA), Slovenia (SLOADO), Serbia (ADAS), and Croatia (CIPH). Due to the Covid pandemic, no meetings were scheduled for various anti-doping events.

In cooperation with the Administration for Sports at the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, consultations were held regarding inquiries from various bodies pertaining to sports and anti-doping. Consultations were also held regarding the report of the Advisory Group on Compliance to the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe, in order to fulfill the obligations towards the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention and the WADA Code.

Based on the Council of Europe's and WADA's monitoring visit reports, the activities for ensuring compliance with the Convention have continued. It was proposed, a Working Group for anti-doping policy coordination should be set up, in order to effectively share information and plan an anti-doping strategy at the level of government and non-governmental bodies involved in sports development and/or doping issues in the Republic of Croatia. The activities associated with the coordination of anti-doping policies in line with the framework set out by the compliance Monitoring Group of the Council of Europe are planned according to specific goal 6.1.6 of the 2019-2026 National Sports Program.

## 2. DOPING CONTROLS, INVESTIGATIONS AND RESULTS MANAGEMENT

In line with international trends in the fight against doping, when planning and implementing testing, we are increasingly relying on data collected from various sources which are related to potential use of prohibited substances and means.

In 2021, testing was conducted in accordance with the revised Test Distribution Plan, in line with WADA's Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis.

### Testing

The 2021 Test Distribution Plan was created in accordance with Article 4.2 of the WADA International Standard for Testing and Investigations, in which risk factors for each sport were estimated, taking into account the history of doping and the popularity of individual sports in the Republic of Croatia. Based on the experience from previous years, increased number of testing is planned in sports with the highest estimated likelihood of doping. WADA's Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis (TDSSA2021) has been consistently applied in the Test Distribution Plan. In addition, increased testing was planned for 2021.

As a part of the National Program, a total of 725 samples were obtained at doping control in 2021. In accordance with international standards, out of all collected samples, 710 were analysed, of which 294 In-Competition and 416 Out-of-Competition. Ninety-three blood analyses were conducted, out of which 57 samples were collected for detection of growth hormone, and 36 samples (all Out-of-Competition) were collected in the athlete biological passport program. Six hundred and seventeen (617) urine (as biological material) analyses were conducted.

One hundred and twenty-four (124) tests for exogenous administration of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents, 122 tests for exogenous administration of growth hormone release factors, and 57 tests for exogenous administration of growth hormone were conducted.

*Doping controls in the national program*

<b>SPORTS/DISCIPLINES</b>	<b>IN-COMPETITION</b>	<b>OUT-OF-COMPETITION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>ESA</b>	<b>GH</b>	<b>GHRF</b>	<b>ABP</b>
<b>Sprint swimming</b>	16	4	<b>20</b>	3	0	4	0
<b>Middle-distance swimming</b>	9	0	<b>9</b>	2	0	3	0
<b>Long-distance swimming</b>	3	8	<b>11</b>	8	0	3	8
<b>Para Swimming S4/SB4/SM4-S9/SB8/SM9</b>	3	1	<b>4</b>	4	0	0	0
<b>Water polo</b>	20	24	<b>44</b>	4	4	4	0
<b>Athletics - Jumping</b>	4	12	<b>16</b>	2	2	2	0
<b>Athletics - Long-distance</b>	6	25	<b>31</b>	26	0	4	18
<b>Athletics - Middle-distance</b>	6	0	<b>6</b>	2	1	1	0
<b>Athletics - Sprint</b>	6	0	<b>6</b>	1	1	1	0
<b>Athletics - Throwing</b>	9	17	<b>26</b>	3	2	3	0
<b>BMX cycling</b>	0	3	<b>3</b>	1	1	1	0
<b>Road cycling</b>	0	2	<b>2</b>	1	0	1	0
<b>Gymnastics</b>	6	20	<b>26</b>	3	2	3	0
<b>Karate</b>	0	12	<b>12</b>	2	2	2	0
<b>Powerlifting</b>	25	3	<b>28</b>	1	8	11	0
<b>Kickboxing</b>	6	0	<b>6</b>	1	0	2	0
<b>Rowing</b>	7	9	<b>16</b>	9	2	2	9
<b>Sailing</b>	0	11	<b>11</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Boxing</b>	0	11	<b>11</b>	3	2	2	0
<b>Shooting</b>	0	18	<b>18</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Judo</b>	6	10	<b>16</b>	2	2	3	0
<b>Taekwondo</b>	6	21	<b>27</b>	3	3	3	0
<b>Para taekwondo</b>	0	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	1	0
<b>Freediving</b>	6	0	<b>6</b>	2	0	0	0
<b>Volleyball</b>	19	24	<b>43</b>	4	0	8	0
<b>Football</b>	50	18	<b>68</b>	7	5	7	0
<b>Wrestling</b>	0	42	<b>42</b>	9	4	11	0
<b>Handball</b>	18	24	<b>42</b>	4	4	4	0
<b>Basketball</b>	28	22	<b>50</b>	6	3	6	0
<b>Table tennis</b>	6	12	<b>18</b>	2	1	2	0
<b>Para table tennis</b>	0	3	<b>3</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Canoe-Kayak slalom</b>	0	3	<b>3</b>	1	1	1	0
<b>Canoe-Kayak sprint</b>	0	3	<b>3</b>	1	1	1	0
<b>Canoe-Kayak middle distance</b>	0	3	<b>1</b>	1	1	1	0
<b>Bodybuilding</b>	2	0	<b>2</b>	1	0	1	0
<b>Bocce ball</b>	0	1	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0

<b>SPORTS/DISCIPLINES</b>	<b>IN-COMPETITION</b>	<b>OUT-OF-COMPETITION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>ESA</b>	<b>GH</b>	<b>GHRF</b>	<b>ABP</b>
<b>Athletics - Paralympic Jump</b>	1	2	3	0	0	3	0
<b>Athletics – Paralympic F31-F34/F51-F53</b>	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Athletics - Paralympic Standing throw</b>	3	5	8	0	0	5	0
<b>Arm wrestling</b>	3	0	3	1	0	1	0
<b>Ice hockey</b>	4	0	4	1	0	1	0
<b>Weightlifting</b>	16	0	16	4	5	9	0
<b>Archery</b>	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Paratriathlon</b>	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	294	380	674	124	57	122	36
<b>ABP</b>		36	36				

Through international cooperation, a total of 343 samples were collected, 329 of which In-Competition, and 14 Out-of-Competition. Three hundred and twenty six (326) urine (as biological material) and 17 blood analyses were conducted.

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>IN-COMPETITION</b>	<b>OUT-OF-COMPETITION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>BLOOD</b>	<b>URINE</b>
<b>Athletics</b>	66	1	67	12	55
<b>Gymnastics</b>	7	0	7	1	6
<b>Handball</b>	0	3	3	0	3
<b>Water polo</b>	0	1	1	0	1
<b>Swimming</b>	0	1	1	0	1
<b>Fencing</b>	1	0	1	0	1
<b>Judo</b>	22	0	22	0	22
<b>Sailing</b>	0	1	1	0	1
<b>Taekwondo</b>	0	1	1	0	1
<b>Shooting</b>	171	0	171	0	171
<b>Rowing</b>	10	0	10	0	10
<b>Karate</b>	14	0	14	2	12
<b>Deaf handball</b>	10	0	10	0	10
<b>Archery</b>	16	0	16	0	16
<b>Athletics - Paralympic</b>	0	2	2	0	2
<b>Canoe-Kayak</b>	0	4	4	2	2
<b>Diving</b>	12	0	12	0	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	329	14	343	17	326

## *Doping controls at international sport events in Croatia*

The CIPH Division for Anti-Doping has continued the implementation of the ABP Steroidal Module, a highly reliable tool for detecting the lowest concentrations of exogenously administered substances from the S1 Class (anabolic steroids), which are non-specified substances.

In 2021, thirteen athletes have been included in the ABP Haematological Module program.

### **Registered Testing Pool**

Seventy-five athletes were included in the Registered Testing Pool. Athletes were provided with assistance in delivering their whereabouts information, education, and support via telephone. WADA's Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis was applied to the Registered Testing Pool in accordance with the Test Distribution Plan.

### **Doping Control Officers**

Supervision of the work of the Doping Control Officers is carried out throughout the year, with monitoring of fieldwork and doping control forms.

On May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Zagreb, accreditation course was held for Doping Control Officers.

Due to the epidemiological situation, the re-accreditation exam and workshop were held in three cities this year: in Zagreb on December 11<sup>th</sup>, in Split on December 12<sup>th</sup>, and in Rijeka on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Program testing support**

Monitoring of sport specific analyses was enabled via the APLIKATA program.

### **Sample management**

In order to strengthen the chain of custody and maintain the highest possible quality of samples for analysis, in addition to the existing measures of holding samples and a storage and warning system, sample transport using portable cool boxes with data logger is secured in accordance with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

### **Investigations and data collection**

Unit for Collection, Evaluation and Usage of Data related to anti-doping rule violations has been integrated into the Testing and Investigation Department of the Division for Anti-Doping of the Croatian Institute of Public Health.

Website of the Division for Anti-Doping includes a “Speak Up” portal, where all interested parties can anonymously report anti-doping rule violations. Hopefully, athletes, sports officials and sports fans in Croatia will use this option to report doping and thus contribute to the fight for clean sports.

The Unit for Collection, Evaluation and Usage of Data related to anti-doping rule violations continuously monitors athletes and athlete support personnel for which there are information on possible anti-doping rule violations. Conclusions are made based on the collected data, with subsequent proceedings and measures which include testing of athletes In-Competition and Out-of-Competition, additional monitoring of athletes and athlete support personnel, and inclusion in the CIPH Registered Testing Pool.

### **Whereabouts failures**

The proceedings for thirteen missed tests were concluded in 2021.

## Results management

### Hearing panel

As part of the results management, three sessions of the CIPH Hearing Panel were held.

In 2021, four athletes tested positive for prohibited substances.

Disciplinary proceedings before the CIPH Hearing Panel were initiated for one athlete. The cases of two athletes are currently under revision. After revision, disciplinary proceedings were dropped for one athlete.

In 2021, the CIPH Hearing Panel held two sessions due to adverse analytical findings from 2020 (case files SP 03/20 and SP 01/21).

*In 2021, the CIPH Hearing Panel held three sessions due to violations of the CIPH Anti-Doping Rules:*

*Table: Sessions of the Hearing Panel*

Session date	Sport	Offender	Type and category of substance from the List	Disciplinary measure	Violated Article of the Rules	Note
21/01/2021 SP 03/20	Wrestling	Athlete	Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)(S8)	6 months of ineligibility	2.1	
23/03/2021 SP 01/21	Wrestling	Athlete	Metabolite GW1516 (S.4.5.1)	3 years of ineligibility	2.1	
23/11/2021 SP 02/20	Taekwondo	Athlete	Cocaine (S6 A)	3 months of ineligibility	2.1	

### The Appeal Panel

There were no CIPH Appeal Panel sessions in 2021.

### 3. DOPING PREVENTION

Within available means and restrictions due to the Covid pandemic, the Division for Anti-Doping continued with the education program for target groups under its authority that are included in its education pool. 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, athletes returning from a sanction, and other participants in top sports (coaches, physicians, physiotherapists, etc.). Educational activities through lectures and the Athlete Outreach Program were severely affected by the pandemic and the imposed epidemiological measures. With online lectures we tried to compensate for the limitations regarding classroom - based lectures. Also, we focused on securing online education tools via the ADEL platform (WADA’s educational program), and on their translation into Croatian language. This resulted in a vast amount of translated material, which facilitated their use and made them even more accessible to our users.

The realization of the planned educational activities included various methods of providing information to athletes and the sports community in order to mitigate the restrictions due to the pandemic. The education of athletes and athlete support personnel was carried out with:

- Lectures (classroom-based and online)
- Online education via ADEL
- Communication via website and newsletter
- Providing information in the NE!DOPINGU magazine, brochures and leaflets
- Direct communication with athletes and athlete support personnel regarding all anti-doping matters via telephone or email.

#### **Lectures**

In 2021, a total of twenty (20) lectures were held; approximately 900 people participated in this type of education. In addition to athletes, the education also included teachers, students, coaches, lawyers, referees, physicians and doping control officers.

*Lectures held in 2021 by categories*

<b>TYPE OF LECTURE / LEVEL</b>	<b>NUMBER OF LECTURES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS</b>
NATIONAL LEVEL*	1	1
INTERNATIONAL LEVEL (REPRESENTATION)	3	387
YOUNG ATHLETES	1	232
Non-specific**	16	265
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>885</b>

\* NATIONAL LEVEL – education of a medical team member (physician) as a part of the training program for educators

\*\*Non-specific – target groups which include coaches, lawyers, referees, physicians, pharmacists, students, and doping control officers

*Lectures held in 2021 by sports*

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES</b>
Swimming	2
Weightlifting	1
Football	1
Volleyball	1

*Cooperation with the Health Commission of the Croatian Olympic Committee*

In the reporting period, the established good cooperation with the Health Commission of the Croatian Olympic Committee has continued. Through this cooperation, we presented the 2021 and 2022 Prohibited List, with an overview of all current trends in the field of anti-doping in Croatia and worldwide, and special testing requirements during the Covid pandemic.

## **Athlete Outreach**

The Athlete Outreach Program was not implemented in the above-mentioned period due to the Covid pandemic.

## **Printed materials**

The 2021 Prohibited list was printed at the end of 2020, with a total of 1,500 copies issued in A4 format. It was distributed to users in January 2021. The List has also been published on the Institute's website since December 2020.

In late 2021, the 2022 Prohibited list was prepared and printed, with a total of 1,500 copies issued in A5 format.

In 2021, six (6) issues of the NE!DOPINGU magazine were published in 600 copies. The magazine was distributed to national federations, sports clubs, schools, health institutions, athletes, sports officials and members of the committees within the CIPH Division for Anti-Doping.

During 2021, in cooperation with the CIPH Department for Food Supplements and Biologically Active Compounds, information leaflets were prepared and printed for raising awareness on the harmful effects of doping, and possibilities for education and informing on dietary supplements.

## **Online education programs (ADEL platform)**

The Division for Anti-Doping has carried out promotional activities for the new online education platform ADEL (Anti-Doping Education and Learning), launched by WADA in early January 2021. ADEL is the new and improved version of WADA's ALPHA educational program. This platform provides anti-doping education for athletes, athlete support personnel, and other interested parties. It offers a wide range of courses and educational programs; courses are assigned depending on the level and role in a sport. After successful completion of education, a certificate valid for two years is issued. In order to make them more accessible to our users, we have invested considerable time in translating the courses and educational programs into Croatian language. In the period between January 1<sup>st</sup> and

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, a total of 2517 applications were submitted for available courses, which includes previous user registrations as the first step before accessing the available online courses. One registered user can access one or several available courses. The total number of registered users on the ADEL platform in the above-mentioned period was 428, including athletes, coaches, medical personnel etc. The platform enables follow-up of users and educational programs according to different criteria, which will be useful for planning subsequent anti-doping educational activities.

### **Website**

The website of the CIPH Division for Anti-Doping was actively used for providing continuous information and education on current anti-doping events to all participants in sports, as well as on the anti-doping program during the Covid pandemic. Athletes and all interested parties from the world of sports were provided access to the List of Registered Medicines in Croatia containing substances from the Prohibited list. This List is updated every month in cooperation with the Croatian Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices. Furthermore, descriptions of medications prohibited in Croatia are regularly updated via advanced search engine, which facilitates finding a specific entry in the database.

On the website, we have also provided support for all other segments of anti-doping activities (education, therapeutic use exemptions, legislation, brochures, etc.). WADA video with Croatian translation explaining the doping control procedure has also been uploaded on the website.

All relevant documents pertaining to new anti-doping regulations have been published on the website of the CIPH Division for Anti-Doping (The Code, Anti-Doping Rules, and all International Standards: the 2021 Prohibited List (as of October 2021), the 2022 Prohibited List as well), International Standard for Testing and Investigations, International Standard for Laboratories, International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions, International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information, International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories, International Standard for Education, and International Standard for Results Management).

**Platforms for the secure transfer of confidential information**

Throughout 2021, we continued using the system for Therapeutic Use Exemptions applications and for reporting doubts regarding the use of doping, as these are sensitive areas where it is particularly necessary to protect the received information (personal data, medical information, data that are strictly confidential by their very nature and must be protected from unauthorized access).

**Newsletter**

During the reporting period, the distribution of the anti-doping newsletter (two (2) monthly newsletters) has continued. The purpose of the newsletter is to intensify communication with interested parties from the sports community in Croatia.

**Public relations**

The media play an extremely important role in conveying anti-doping information. Our cooperation with the Croatian media is good. After each press release, we answer questions from journalists regarding a published case, to the extent permitted by the Code.

## 4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

During 2021, Division for Anti-Doping participated in the following activities as part of international cooperation:

- Cooperation with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
- Cooperation with the Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations (iNADO)
- Cooperation with Council of Europe's Anti-Doping bodies, Ad Hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA)
- Cooperation with Council of Europe's Anti-Doping bodies, Council of Europe's Advisory Groups (T-DO)
- Participation in activities of the Central European Anti-Doping Organization (CEADO): regular teleconferences were held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. WADA and CEADO have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in order to participate in mutual anti-doping education projects. The plan is to continue cooperation in the advancement of the anti-doping system in EERADO countries, with support and knowledge exchange in this field provided by CEADO member states. The WADA-CEADO-EERADO project will continue as long as there is a need for support in this area.
- Supporting the Ministry of Tourism and Sports Administration for Sports regarding session of the EU Working Party on Sport
- Preparatory activities and participation in the 2021 WADA World Congress in Lausanne. The Congress was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and rescheduled for 2022.
- Preparatory activities and participation in the iNADO annual meeting and workshop in Lausanne, which were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic – a teleconference was held instead.

- Preparatory activities and participation in the meeting of the Ad Hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA) and Council of Europe's Monitoring Group (T-DO) - online meetings.
- Cooperation with the International Testing Agency (ITA)
- Cooperation with the laboratory in Seibersdorf – standard cooperation in athlete sample testing and participation in NADO's anti-doping workshop 'Intelligence & Investigation program' (November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021), accompanied by a theme lecture
- Cooperation with anti-doping organizations in specific matters (testing, education, data collection)
- Preparatory activities and participation at the COP8 UNESCO meeting (online participation) – consensus was reached regarding the COP8 UNESCO delegation; out of three delegation members, the head of delegation was the deputy of UNESCO representative in Croatia. Other two delegates were selected from the anti-doping organization (Division for Anti-Doping). In the period between 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021, the Division for Anti-Doping participated online at the COP8 UNESCO member states conference; continued support was provided for the head of the delegation regarding expert and strategic matters associated with decisions or voting. In the COP8 report evaluating compliance of individual member states, the Republic of Croatia achieved compliance level of approximately 70%.

#### Participation in workshops and projects

- Participation in the online meeting with the company Ecorys on behalf of the European Commission (DG EAC) on the fight against anabolic steroids and human growth hormones in sports (January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021)
- Participation in the dissemination of questionnaires on anti-doping education to coaches (project initiated by the Carnegie School of Sport, Leeds Beckett University, Fairfax Hall 202, Headingley Campus, Leeds, LS6 3QS, United Kingdom)
- Participation in the questionnaire for national anti-doping organizations regarding respecting athletes' rights in anti-doping proceedings (Overview Project on Human

Rights and Fair Procedure in Anti-Doping Proceedings), organized by the Azerbaijani anti-doping organization

- Participation in the project of collecting data on NADO anti-doping activities, organized by the Azerbaijani NADO
- Participation in the project of collecting data regarding anti-doping in social science research (Social Science Research Collaboration Platform Stakeholder Survey 2021)
- Participation in the WADA symposium on collaboration with investigation units regarding anti-doping proceedings (May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021)
- Participation in online education 'Clinical Implications of Novel Psychoactive Substances', organized by the International Society for the Study of Emerging Drugs (ISSED) (May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021)
- Participation in the educational program of EERADO countries: online presentations of anti-doping organization in countries from the CEADO group, in accordance with the topic assignment plan obtained through cooperation with WADA (June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Testing Program- Austria, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Education Program – Slovenia and Slovakia; June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 “Intelligence & Investigation” Program – Croatia and Austria; June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 “Results Management” Program – Poland; July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 “Therapeutic Use Exemptions” and “Data Protection” Program – Serbia and Hungary
- Participation in the UEFA anti-doping symposium (workshop) for planning and implementing anti-doping activities in national leagues – August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (online meeting); subsequently, the Division for Anti-Doping held a preparatory meeting with the representative of the Croatian Football Federation (August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021) in order to define cooperation in anti-doping education.
- Participation in iNADO online meeting regarding WADA monitoring – August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Participation in the yearly anti-doping workshop organized by the laboratory in Seibersdorf, from the field of NADO’s 'Intelligence & Investigation Program' (November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021), followed by a theme lecture

## 5. THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS

During the reporting period, the activities of the Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee were carried out in accordance with the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions and the Therapeutic Use Exemption Rules.

In 2021, fourteen (14) applications for Therapeutic Use Exemption were submitted. Of which:

- The Committee reviewed eleven (11) individual TUE applications (of which ten were eligible under the TUE Guidelines).
- Three (3) TUE applications did not meet the conditions for reviewing at the Committee session.

A total of ten (10) Therapeutic Use Exemptions were granted at Committee sessions in 2021, of which seven (7) were proactive and three (3) were retroactive (RA). At the Committee session, one (1) TUE application was denied due to failure to meet special criteria for granting a TUE from the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (Article 4. 2. d: “The necessity for the use of the prohibited substance or prohibited method is not a consequence, wholly or in part, of the prior use of a substance or method which was prohibited at the time of such use.” This includes the use of this substance without a TUE or in the context of abuse). In this case, TUE was requested for In-Competition use of Buprenorphine, a substance prescribed for opiate addiction treatment. Unfounded TUE applications were resolved administratively, without holding Committee sessions.

Table 1 – TUE applications (2021)

Total number of applications	14
Total number of sessions held	11
TUEs in progress	0
Total number of <b>granted</b> TUEs	10
Total number of <b>denied</b> TUEs	1
Total number of <b>unfounded</b> applications	3

Table: Granted Therapeutic Use Exemptions

Active Substance	Diagnosis	TUE Type
Dexamethasone	Lumbago	RA
Prednisone	Persistent Rhinitis	PA
Prednisone	Ulcerative Colitis	RA
Insulin (degludec and aspart)	Diabetes Mellitus	PA
Growth hormone	Growth Hormone Deficiency	PA
Methylprednisolone	Lumbosacral Facet Syndrome	PA
Insulin (aspart)	Diabetes Mellitus	PA
Prednisone	Ulcerative Colitis	RA
Hydrochlorothiazide	Arterial Hypertension	PA
Insulin, Hydrochlorothiazide	Diabetes Mellitus; Arterial Hypertension	PA

Table: Denied Applications for Therapeutic Use Exemptions

Active Substance	Diagnosis	TUE Type
Buprenorphine	Opiate addiction syndrome	PA

Table: Unfounded Applications for Therapeutic Use Exemptions

Active Substance	Diagnosis	Reason
Prednisone	Recurrent unsuccessful implantation	Out-of-Competition
Methylprednisolone	Supraspinatus tendinopathy	Topical administration
Beclomethasone and Formoterol	Asthma	Topical administration

All decisions of the TUE Committee from the reporting period have been uploaded in ADAMS and thus were made available to WADA and other authorized organizations. This ensures transparency of the proceedings regarding Therapeutic Use Exemptions and of the work of TUE Committee.

With the entry into force of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, a system for secure electronic submission of TUE applications, i.e., via “secure TUE portal”, was enabled. It provides utmost protection of applicants’ personal and confidential data. In line with updates of security measures for the protection of such data, additional means for submitting TUE applications are also available, such as registered mail and/or submission in person to the Division for Anti-Doping of the Croatian Institute of Public Health.

In 2021, all documents pertaining to the procedure for receiving and granting TUEs have been updated.

## **6. MEDICINE AND SCIENCE**

The Counselling Centre has continued to provide services to athletes in competitive and recreational sports, medical personnel in sports federations and clubs, occupational medicine and sports medicine specialists, physicians of other specialities involved in treating athletes, sports officials and other persons as regards issues pertaining to the use of medications in sports. The services of the Counselling Centre include:

- counselling on substances and methods prohibited in sport (counselling athletes, coaches, physiotherapists, physicians),
- inquiries and counselling of other persons in the field of doping (parents of athletes, physical education teachers, pedagogues, fitness instructors, pharmacists, physicians, and others).

In 2021, the Counselling Centre for Anti-Doping and Rational Pharmacotherapy held many consultations regarding inquiries from sports physicians, athletes and coaches on the use of medications and dietary supplements. Most of the questions were related to the safety of using various dietary supplements. The questions regarding medications included inquiries on antibiotics, inhaled glucocorticoids, thyroid hormone replacement therapy, analgesics, antihistamines, antihypertensives, proton pump inhibitors, insulin, antiepileptics, antidepressants, local decongestants, but also anabolic steroids, glucocorticoids, non-specific stimuli, alcohol and cannabis.

## **7. PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE**

In 2021, the necessary supplies (doping control kits, face masks, gloves, visors and contactless thermometers), and other required equipment were procured.