
Annual
Report

2023

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 Healthcare Act (Official Gazette 100/2018), and pursuant to Article 274 of the above Act, the Croatian Institute of Public Health (CIPH) has assumed all obligations and activities from the Croatian Institute for Toxicology and Anti-Doping (CITA). In this transition, CITA Department for Anti-Doping is positioned as Division for Anti-Doping within the Croatian Institute of Public Health (CIPH Division for Anti-Doping).

The main task of CIPH Division for Anti-Doping is to protect the 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 program at national and international levels.

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

For implementing the measures and activities of the anti-doping program, Division for Anti-Doping cooperates with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism and Sport – Directorate for Sport, the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration, the Ministry of the Interior, the State Attorney's Office, the 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, Division for Anti-Doping cooperates with UNESCO, WADA, Council of Europe, iNADO, CEADO (Central European Anti-Doping Organization), 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 sport federations and sports clubs in Croatia, national anti-doping organizations from other countries, UEFA, World Athletics (former IAAF), and other international sport federations.

In 2023, 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 the legal successor of CITA, CIPH has become a signatory of the WADA Code. A Contract has been signed between WADA and CIPH regarding the use of the ADAMS system.

In 2023, based on CIPH Anti-Doping Rules, Division for Anti-Doping implemented the provisions of the WADA Code, of the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions, International Standard for Testing and Investigations, International Standard for Protection of Privacy and Personal Data, International Standard for Laboratories, the 2023 Prohibited List, the International Standard for Code Compliance, the International Standard for Education, and the International Standard for Results Management.

Additional rules and rules of procedure used in the activities of Division for Anti-Doping included: Rules on Doping Control, Rules on Accreditation and Re-Accreditation of Doping Control Officers, Rules on Therapeutic Use Exemptions, and Hearing Panel Rules of Procedure. The Mandate Councils, established for implementing anti-doping activities, were: TUE Committee, Hearing Panel and Appeal Panel while the composition of the Appeal Panel for the period 2022-2027 was partially altered with decision issued by the Croatian Olympic Committee on November 22nd 2023.

Harmonization of anti-doping documents with anti-doping regulations, and activities related to establishing the Anti-Doping Rules

The Anti-Doping Rules were amended in June 2022, as approved by the CIPH Governing Council. The amendments involved the provisions on activities of the Appeal Panel, as an Appeal Panel has been established by the Center for Sports Rights of the Croatian Olympic Committee, whose activities are regulated by COC internal rules. In this process, the Division for Anti-Doping cooperated closely with the COC in establishing an operationally and institutionally independent appeal body.

Many activities were carried out in 2023 for preparing a draft proposal for the Anti-Doping Rules in accordance with the Sports Act (OG 141/22) and the Act amending the Healthcare Act (OG 33/23).

The Sports Act (OG 141/2022), in whose creation the Division for Anti-Doping participated during the public debate process, was adopted on November 29th 2022 and entered into force on January 1st 2023. Its provisions have significantly strengthened the position of CIPH Division for Anti-Doping, especially in the part on establishing authority over individuals in the sport system.

In 2023, CIPH Division for Anti-Doping continued the consultations with the Ministry of Health on the Act amending the Healthcare Act where, for the first time, Anti-Doping Rules are defined for implementing all provisions from the World Anti-Doping Code and international standards, as well as international conventions on the fight against doping.

The Healthcare Act (OG 33/23) entered into force on April 1st 2023.

Pursuant to Article 132, Paragraph 1, Section 12 of the Healthcare Act (OG 33/23), the title *Anti-Doping Regulation* needed to be changed to *Anti-Doping Rules*, for harmonization with the above legal provision.

Furthermore, pursuant to provisions of the Sports Act (OG 141/22) on stakeholders' obligations in carrying out anti-doping education, the draft proposal of the Anti-Doping Rules include provisions that adequately reflect the responsibilities of individual stakeholders (athletes and national sports federations) regarding mandatory education on anti-doping.

The draft proposal of the Anti-Doping Rules also includes the provision on the manner of notifying athletes for more economic implementation of anti-doping procedures.

The draft proposal of the Anti-Doping Rules was submitted to WADA for review, and was subsequently approved by WADA. In addition to the above draft proposal, parts of the Sports Act (OG 141/22) and the Act amending the Healthcare Act (OG 33/23) containing provisions related to anti-doping were also submitted to WADA for review. WADA did not object to any of the provisions in both of the above acts.

The Anti-Doping Rules were published via e-consultations on November 28th 2023 and remained open for public consultations until December 28th 2023, with entering into force of the Anti-Doping Rules scheduled for the first quarter of 2024.

Adopted recommendations after the audit by the commission for compliance assessment with the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe and WADA, in accordance with the report issued by the working commission

In 2023, recommendations were adopted after the audit by the commission for compliance assessment with the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe and WADA, in accordance with the report issued by the working commission. This was done with the purpose of meeting the requirements according to the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe and the WADA Code.

Intense Cooperation and coordination with the National Police Office for Fighting Corruption and Organised Crime, and with the Ministry of the Interior was continued in 2023, especially in reaching the Agreement on cooperation and exchange of information regarding substances prohibited in sport, which was signed on May 23rd 2023 between the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Health, and the Croatian Institute of Public Health.

Cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Sport - Directorate for Sport, and with the COC was also continued for realization of recommendations issued by the Council of Europe commission for compliance monitoring, as well as cooperation with the Office for Drug-Related Crimes at the Ministry of the Interior for activity coordination and cooperation.

Activities for implementing national coordination in the Republic of Croatia

Based on the report issued by the monitoring group of the Council of Europe and WADA after the 2019 audit, and conclusions from the report issued in the framework of the COP8 Conference in October 2021, activities for harmonization with the Convention were continued.

Furthermore, in accordance with the set indicator from measure 6.1.6 of the National Sport Program 2019 – 2026 (OG 69/2019) “to advance cooperation between the authorities in the fight against doping in sport”, initiative for the planned activity “to establish an effective mechanism for planning and monitoring the activities in the field of the fight against doping in sport” was implemented.

Decision issued by the Ministry of Tourism and Sport established the Coordination Body for Anti-Doping on March 27th 2023, whose stakeholders include the Ministry of Tourism and Sport, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration, the Croatian Institute of Public Health, the Croatian Olympic Committee, Croatian Paralympic Committee, and the Croatian Federation of Sports for the Deaf.

The Coordination Body for Anti-Doping also acts as national platform for compliance in accordance with the UNESCO International Convention Against Doping in Sport, which ensures a consolidated approach in information exchange and implementation of the Convention.

The first session of the Coordination Body for Anti-Doping was held on July 5th 2023, with next session scheduled for February 2024.

The report after compliance assessment of anti-doping in the Republic of Croatia with regard to the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe ETS No 135, has been accepted after consultations with the assessment stakeholders, and was subsequently submitted to the Council of Europe on June 15th 2023 for further assessment by the Council of Europe monitoring group who will complete the assessment / acceptance in 2024.

Cooperation and harmonization of anti-doping documents with anti-doping regulations

In 2023, cooperation with the Croatian Olympic Committee was continued for achieving compliance with recommendations from the draft report of the Council of Europe compliance monitoring group.

Furthermore, cooperation and coordination with National Police Office for Combating Corruption and Organised Crime, and with the Ministry of the Interior was carried out in 2023, with subsequent signing of the Agreement on Cooperation and Information Exchange.

As part of cooperation with the Ministry of Health, CIPH Division for Anti-Doping participated in activities carried out by the working group for amending the List of drugs, psychotropic substances and plants from which drugs can be obtained, and substances that can be used to produce drugs, as well as the List of Substances Prohibited in Sport, with the purpose of

implementing Article 191.a of the Criminal Act (OG 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21). The above lists are entered into force in early 2023.

In 2023, CIPH Division for Anti-Doping cooperated with the Directorate for Sport at the Ministry of Tourism and Sport in the realisation of recommendations from the draft report of the Council of Europe working commission for compliance monitoring. Consultations were held in cooperation with the Directorate for Sport at the Ministry of Tourism and Sport regarding inquiries from various bodies on sport and anti-doping.

Throughout 2023, meetings organized by CEADO (Central European Anti-Doping Organization) were held online and onsite. CEADO members include anti-doping organizations of Austria (NADA Austria), Hungary (HUNADO), Poland (POLADA), Czech Republic (CADC), Slovakia (SADA), Slovenia (SLOADO), Serbia (ADAS), and Croatia (CIPH).

2. DOPING CONTROLS, INVESTIGATIONS AND RESULTS MANAGEMENT

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

In 2023, testing was conducted in accordance with the Test Distribution Plan and WADA's Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis.

Testing

The 2023, the Test Distribution Plan was created in accordance with Article 4.2 of WADA International Standard for Testing and Investigations; risk factors were estimated for each sport, 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 testing was planned for sports with the highest estimated likelihood of doping. WADA's Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis (TDSSA2023) was consistently applied in the Test Distribution Plan. The 2023 Plan included an increased number of testing compared to 2022, which is also our intention for each following year.

As part of the National Program, seven hundred and ninety nine (799) samples were collected at doping control in 2023, three hundred and eighty one (381) of which In-Competition and four hundred and eighteen (418) Out-of-Competition. Seventy-eight (78) analyses were carried out from blood, of which thirty-eight (38) samples were collected for detection of the presence of growth hormone and forty (40) samples were collected as part of the athlete biological passport program. Seven hundred and twenty one (721) urine (as biological material) analyses were conducted.

One hundred and thirty one (131) tests were conducted for exogenous administration of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents, one hundred and sixty two (162) tests for exogenous administration of growth hormone release factors, and thirty-eight (38) tests for exogenous administration of growth hormone.

Doping controls in the national program

SPORT	DISCIPLINE	IN-COMPETITION	OUT-OF-COMPETITION	TOTAL	ESA	GH	GHRF	ABP
<i>Athletics</i>	<i>Throwing</i>	7	7	14	1	2	1	0
<i>Athletics</i>	<i>Long distance</i>	6	21	27	10	1	1	14
<i>Athletics</i>	<i>Jumping</i>	4	4	8	2	2	1	0
<i>Athletics</i>	<i>Sprint</i>	11	1	12	0	4	0	0
<i>Athletics</i>	<i>Middle distance</i>	10	8	18	5	2	1	3
<i>Para Athletics</i>	<i>F31-F-34/F51-F53</i>	3	0	3	1	1	0	0
<i>Para Athletics</i>	<i>F 54-F57</i>	5	0	5	1	1	0	0
<i>Para Athletics</i>	<i>Jumping-all classes</i>	2	0	2	0	2	0	0
<i>Para Athletics</i>	<i>Standing t.-all classes</i>	2	0	2	0	2	0	0
<i>Cycling</i>	<i>Road cycling</i>	3	8	11	4	1	0	0
<i>Bocce</i>	<i>Bocce</i>	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Boxing</i>	<i>Boxing</i>	16	14	30	6	3	3	0
<i>Weightlifting</i>	<i>Weightlifting</i>	16	1	17	1	10	0	0
<i>Gymnastics</i>	<i>Sport gymnastics</i>	8	8	16	2	4	1	6
<i>Ice hockey</i>	<i>Ice hockey</i>	0	8	8	1	2	0	0
<i>Wrestling</i>	<i>Wrestling</i>	10	30	40	8	10	3	0
<i>Sailing</i>	<i>Sailing</i>	0	3	3	1	1	0	0
<i>Judo</i>	<i>Judo</i>	8	10	18	2	3	0	3
<i>Kayak canoe</i>	<i>Wildwater</i>	0	3	3	1	1	1	0
<i>Kayak canoe</i>	<i>Sprint</i>	0	3	3	1	1	1	0
<i>Kayak canoe</i>	<i>Middle distance</i>	0	4	4	1	1	1	0
<i>Karate</i>	<i>Karate</i>	9	6	15	1	1	1	9

SPORT	DISCIPLINE	IN- COMPETITION	OUT-OF- COMPETITION	TOTAL	ESA	GH	GHRF	ABP
<i>Kickboxing</i>	<i>Kickboxing</i>	16	0	16	6	4	0	0
<i>Basketball</i>	<i>Basketball</i>	30	42	72	8	16	0	0
<i>Football</i>	<i>Futsal</i>	0	8	8	1	2	0	0
<i>Football</i>	<i>Football</i>	46	42	88	10	16	9	0
<i>Arm wrestling</i>	<i>Arm wrestling</i>	10	0	10	1	4	0	0
<i>Volleyball</i>	<i>Volleyball</i>	28	29	57	3	6	0	0
<i>Underwater sports</i>	<i>Scuba diving</i>	0	4	4	1	2	0	0
<i>Powerlifting</i>	<i>Powerlifting</i>	27	6	33	3	20	0	0
<i>Rugby</i>	<i>Fifteen</i>	0	6	6	1	2	0	3
<i>Handball</i>	<i>Handball</i>	30	44	74	7	7	7	0
<i>Sport fishing</i>	<i>Sport fishing</i>	4	0	4	0	0	0	0
<i>Table tennis</i>	<i>Table tennis</i>	8	2	10	1	0	1	0
<i>Shooting</i>	<i>Shooting</i>	0	5	5	0	0	0	0
<i>Taekwondo</i>	<i>Sparing</i>	8	8	16	2	2	2	0
<i>Tennis</i>	<i>Tennis</i>	0	8	8	2	1	0	0
<i>Triathlon</i>	<i>Triathlon</i>	6	0	6	4	2	0	0
<i>Rowing</i>	<i>Rowing</i>	8	40	48	20	6	0	0
<i>Water sports</i>	<i>Long distance</i>	3	7	10	3	2	0	0
<i>Water sports</i>	<i>Sprint</i>	5	3	8	2	3	0	0
<i>Water sports</i>	<i>Middle distance</i>	10	5	15	3	4	0	0
<i>Water sports</i>	<i>Water polo</i>	20	20	40	4	8	4	0
TOTAL		381	418	799	131	162	38	0
ABP			40	40				0

As part of international cooperation, two hundred and forty (240) samples were collected, two hundred and twenty one (221) of which In-Competition and nineteen (19) Out-of-Competition. Two hundred and thirty five (235) urine (as biological material), and five (5) blood analyses were performed.

SPORT	IN-COMPETITION	OUT-OF-COMPETITION	TOTAL	BLOOD	URINE
Athletics	23	1	24	0	24
Para athletics	0	1	1	0	1
Bocce	0	1	1	0	1
Boccia	6	2	8	0	8
Wrestling	27	0	27	3	24
Judo	26	2	28	0	28
Kayak canoe	12	0	12	0	12
Kickboxing	2	1	3	0	3
Fencing	4	1	5	0	5
Football	0	1	1	0	1
Scuba diving	3	0	3	0	3
Handball	40	0	40	0	40
Sport fishing	3	0	3	0	3
Archery	4	0	4	0	4
Shooting	15	0	15	0	15
Shooting para	15	0	15	0	15
Tegball	6	0	6	0	6
Triathlon	4	0	4	0	4
Water polo	8	10	18	2	16
Rowing	22	0	22	0	22
TOTAL	221	19	240	5	235

CIPH Division for Anti-Doping continued with 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 2023, thirteen (13) athletes were included in the ABP Haematological Module program.

Registered Testing Pool

The Registered Testing Pool included fifty-eight (58) athletes, and twenty-two (22) athletes included in the 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

The work of the doping control officers was continuously supervised throughout the year, with monitoring of fieldwork and of doping control forms.

Annual meeting and workshops were held with doping control officers in Zagreb and Split.

Program testing support

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

Sample management

For strengthening the chain of custody and maintaining the highest possible quality of samples for analysis, in addition to the existing measures of sample storage and warning system, sample transport using portable cool boxes with data logger was secured in accordance with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

Investigations and data collection

The Unit for Collection, Evaluation and Use of Data related to anti-doping rule violations has been integrated into the Testing and Investigations Department of CIPH Division for Anti-Doping.

Division for Anti-Doping website features the "Speak Up" portal, where all interested parties can anonymously report anti-doping rule violations. This way, every individual in Croatia can contribute to the fight for clean sport.

The Unit for Collection, Evaluation and Use of Data related to anti-doping rule violations continuously monitors athletes and athlete support personnel for which there are information on potential anti-doping rule violations. Conclusions are reached based on the collected information, 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

Proceedings for four (4) missed tests were initiated in 2023, two (2) of which cases involved missed tests. In one case it was decided that a missed test shall not be established while for one case proceedings are in progress, with expected resolution in 2024.

Two (2) failures to submit whereabouts information were reported in 2023.

Results management

The Hearing Panel

Within the framework of results management, the CIPH Hearing Panel held seven (7) sessions.

In 2023, seven (7) athletes tested positive for prohibited substances.

Five (5) sessions of the CIPH Hearing Panel held in 2023 were related to potential anti-doping rule violations which occurred in 2022 (case files SP 01/22, SP 02/22, SP 03/22, SP 04/22, and SP 05/22).

In 2023, the CIPH Hearing Panel held seven (7) sessions due to violations of CIPH Anti-Doping Rules:

Table: Hearing Panel Sessions

Session date	Sport	Offender	Type and category of substance from the List	Disciplinary measure	Violated Article of the Rules	Note
06/02/2023 SP 01/23	Bodybuilding	Athlete		4 years of ineligibility	2.3	Started in 2022
06/03/2023 SP 02/23	Bodybuilding	Athlete	Drostanolone (S1.1)	4 years of ineligibility	2.1	Started in 2022
06/03/2023 SP 03/23	Bodybuilding	Athlete	Metenolone (S1.1)	4 years of ineligibility	2.1	Started in 2022
10/03/2023 SP 04/23	Para athletics	Athlete	Carboxy-THC (S8)	3 months of ineligibility	2.1	Started in 2022
21/04/2023 SP 05/23	Bocce	Athlete	Carboxy-THC (S8)	3 months of ineligibility	2.1	Started in 2022
29/08/2023 SP 06/23	Athletics	Athlete	Cocaine (S6 A)	4 years of ineligibility	2.1	
29/08/2023 SP 07/23	Taekwondo	Athlete	Carboxy-THC (S8)	3 months of ineligibility	2.1	

The Appeal Panel

There were no Appeal Panel sessions in 2023.

An Appeal Panel was established in 2022 by the Center for Sport-Related Rights of the Croatian Olympic Committee, pursuant to the WADA Code provision on establishing an appeal panel that is institutionally independent from the organization in charge of anti-doping results management. Consequently, the CIPH Appeal Panel has been dismissed. Due to reorganization in the Croatian Olympic Committee in 2023, which revoked the Center for Sport-Related Rights, the Appeal Panel for anti-doping continues to operate as an independent body within the Croatian Olympic Committee.

3. DOPING PREVENTION

Within its available resources, 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 included athletes from the Registered Testing Pool, athletes from the Testing Pool, professional athletes, athletes competing in top leagues, international level athletes, athletes from “sports at risk”, Olympic candidates, athletes returning from a sanction, and other participants in top sports (coaches, physicians, physiotherapists, etc.). Also, we focused on securing online educational 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 its use and made it more accessible to users.

The realization of planned educational activities included various methods of providing information to athletes and the sport community in accordance with the International Standard for Education and the Division for Anti-Doping 2023 Education Plan and Program. Education of athletes and athlete support personnel was carried out via:

- Lectures (face-to-face and online);
- Online education through ADEL;
- Communication via the website and newsletter;
- Informing through the NE!DOPINGU magazine, brochures and leaflets;
- Direct communication with athletes and athlete support personnel regarding all anti-doping topics via telephone or email.

Lectures

Thirty-three (33) lectures were held in 2023 (face-to-face and online); over eight hundred (800) people participated in this type of education. In addition to athletes, education included teachers, students, coaches, lawyers, referees, physicians and doping control officers.

Lectures held in 2023 by categories

TYPE OF LECTURE / LEVEL	NUMBER OF LECTURES	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
NATIONAL LEVEL	5	162
INTERNATIONAL LEVEL (REPRESENTATION)	6	136
YOUNG ATHLETES	6	130
Non-specific*	16	385
TOTAL	33	813

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

Lectures held in 2023 by sports

SPORT	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES
Ice hockey	7
Wrestling	1
Football*	1
Athletics	5
MMA	1
Dancesport	1
Weightlifting	1
Kickboxing	1

*Online lecture for physicians working in CFF football clubs.

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. The 2023 and 2024 Prohibited List was presented through such cooperation, with an overview of all current trends in anti-doping in Croatia and worldwide.

Cooperation with the Croatian Football Federation

Cooperation with the Croatian Football Federation (CFF) continued in 2023 as part of UEFA's anti-doping educational program HatTrick. Workshops and lectures were held in football clubs with the purpose of familiarizing athletes and athlete support personnel with the anti-doping program, testing procedure, and their rights and obligations. A special group of educators was established for implementing this project.

Athlete Outreach Program

Eight (8) Athlete Outreach Programs were completed in 2023, with a total of fourteen (14) Athlete Outreach Days; some six hundred and seventy (670) persons were educated in this way.

Completed training as part of the Athlete Outreach Program

SPORT	TOTAL ACTIVITIES*	NUMBER OF PERSONS EDUCATED
Ice hockey	2	100
Kickboxing	2	90
Powerlifting and bench press	2	100
Weightlifting	1	15
Athletics	1	5
Combat sports	1	10
Judo	5	350
TOTAL:	14	670

*Expressed in days of completed activities (Athlete Outreach Days)

Courses / workshops

Ten (10) thematic courses / workshops for education of new and existing doping control officers and three (3) anti-doping workshops in cooperation with WADA and CEADO were held in 2023. Fifty four (54) persons participated in the above activities. In the reporting period, participation at the CEADO Conference panel discussion entitled - The Role of Athletes and the Media in Promoting Clean Sport, with participation from over eighty (80) leading experts in the field of anti-doping, was also noted.

Printed material

The 2023 Prohibited list was printed in late 2022, with a total of one thousand five hundred (1,500) copies made in A5 format. It was distributed to users in January 2023. The List has also been published on the Institute's website since December 2022.

In late 2023, the 2024 Prohibited list was prepared and printed, with a total of one thousand five hundred (1,500) copies made in A5 format. The List is published on our website, while the printed version will be distributed as required during 2024.

In 2023, six (6) issues of the NE!DOPINGU magazine were published in six hundred (600) copies. The magazine was distributed to national federations, sport clubs, schools, health institutions, athletes, sport officials and members of the committees within the CIPH Division for Anti-Doping.

A new bilingual edition (Croatian-English) of the Anti-Doping Handbook was prepared in 2023. The Handbook is intended for basic education on anti-doping matters and advancement of previously acquired knowledge in the field. Printing of one thousand (1000) copies of the bilingual edition is scheduled for early 2024. Furthermore, distribution of leaflets as promotional materials was continued in 2023. They were prepared and printed in collaboration with CIPH Department for Food Supplements and Biologically Active Compounds, in order to raise awareness on the harmful effects of doping and on the possibilities for education regarding 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, and courses are assigned according to the level and role in a sport. After successful completion of educational activities, a certificate valid for two (2) 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 1st and December 31st, 2023, two thousand nine hundred and eighty seven (2987) course applications were submitted, including previous user registrations as the first step before accessing the available online courses. Out of one thousand nine hundred and twenty nine (1.929) registered users in the period between January 1st 2021 and December 31st 2023, there were six hundred and forty six (646) registered new users on the ADEL platform in 2023. This includes athletes, coaches, medical personnel etc. The platform features a search engine according to different criteria for users and educational programs, which is useful for planning future anti-doping educational activities.

Website

The website of CIPH Division for Anti-Doping was actively used for continuous informing and education of all participants in sports on the current anti-doping events. On our website, athletes and all interested parties from the world of sport can access the List of Registered Medicines in Croatia containing substances from the Prohibited list. The above List is updated every month in cooperation with the Croatian Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices. Furthermore, presentations of medicines 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 regarding all other segments of anti-doping activities (testing, therapeutic use exemptions, legislation, brochures, etc.). WADA's video with Croatian translation explaining the doping control procedure is also featured on the website.

All relevant documents regarding current anti-doping regulations are published on the CIPH Division for Anti-Doping website (The Code, Anti-Doping Rules, and all International Standards:

the 2023 Prohibited List (since October 2023, also for 2024), 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 secure transfer of confidential information

In 2023, we continued using the system for therapeutic use exemptions applications and for reporting suspected use of doping, as these are sensitive areas where it is particularly necessary to protect the received information (personal data, medical data, data that are strictly confidential by their very nature and must be protected from unauthorized access).

Newsletter

During the reporting period, bimonthly distribution of anti-doping newsletter related to communications from our website has continued. The purpose of the newsletter is to intensify the communication with interested parties from the sport community in Croatia.

Public relations

The media play an extremely important role in conveying the anti-doping information. Our cooperation with the Croatian media is satisfactory. Questions from journalists were answered in accordance with Code provisions and the provisions of relevant international standards.

4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

As part of international cooperation in 2023, Division for Anti-Doping participated in the following activities:

- 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 the activities of the Central European Anti-Doping Organization (CEADO): Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2022 between WADA and the CEADO group regarding participation 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 provided by CEADO member states. The WADA-CEADO-EERADO project will continue as long as support is necessary in this area.
- Supporting the Ministry of Tourism and Sport - Directorate for Sport regarding the session of the EU Working Party on Sport
- Participation at the 2023 WADA World Congress in Lausanne
- Participation in the meetings of the Ad Hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA) and Council of Europe Monitoring Group (T-DO) in 2023
- Cooperation with the International Testing Agency (ITA)
- Cooperation with the laboratory in Seibersdorf – standard cooperation in athlete sample testing; participation in the anti-doping workshop 'Experiencing WADA: 'Organizing Antidoping at Major Games. A Multidisciplinary perspective' (November 27th, 2023)
- Cooperation with anti-doping organizations regarding specific matters (testing, education, data collection)
- Cooperation with the Anti-Doping Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the framework of Cooperation Agreement signed in 2012

- Cooperation with the Slovenian anti-doping organization in the framework of Cooperation Agreement signed in 2017
- Cooperation with the Austrian anti-doping agency in the framework of Cooperation Agreement signed in 2018
- Cooperation with the Moldovan anti-doping agency in the framework of Cooperation Agreement signed in 2012
- Cooperation with other international sport and anti-doping organizations (International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee, international sport federations, national anti-doping organizations)

Participation in workshops and projects

- Participation at the UNESCO online meeting on the new monitoring system via ADLogic (January 10th 2023)
- Participation at the anti-doping workshop with international participation from anti-doping organizations of Austria, Slovakia and Moldavia in the framework of CEADO (January 16th -18th 2023)
- Participation at CEADO online meeting (January 24th 2023)
- Participation at the 6th Congress of the Slovenian Toxicological Society in Ljubljana (January 26th 2023)
- Participation at the COC Health Commission (February 3rd 2023)
- Participation at the anti-doping T-DO workshop in Nyon (February 20th – 22nd 2023)
- Participation at CEADO online meeting (February 23rd 2023)
- Participation at CEADO online meeting (March 8th 2023)
- Participation at CEADO meeting in Lausanne (March 13th 2023)
- Participation at the WADA World Symposium (March 14th and 15th 2023)
- Participation at the CEADO meeting of education managers (April 6th 2023)
- Participation at WADA webinar on results management (April 19th 2023)
- Participation at iNADO webinar regarding cases of contaminated products ingestion (April 24th 2023)
- Participation at WADA webinar on results management (April 26th 2023)

- Participation at the CAHAMA and T-DO meeting in Strasbourg (April 26th – 28th 2023)
- Participation at the CEADO meeting in Bratislava (May 10th – 12th 2023)
- Participation at iNADO webinar on the topic: Education and mental health support for athletes returning from a sanction: Experiences from USADA (May 16th 2023)
- Participation at the anti-doping symposium of the Norwegian Anti-Doping Agency on the topic “The Future of Anti-Doping” (June 6th – 8th 2023)
- Participation at the meeting of CEADO education group (June 20th 2023)
- Participation at iNADO webinar on the topic: Prevention programs for Para athletes: Experiences from SLOADO (June 20th 2023)
- Participation at online meeting of the T-DO SCI on consultations for the 2024 Prohibited List (June 26th 2023)
- Participation at UEFA online meeting regarding the HatTrick Program (July 13th 2023)
- Participation at webinar: “(Clean) Athlete Vulnerability - the Academic Perspective” - with Prof. Andrea Petroczi, MD (August 8th 2023)
- Participation at the convention marking the 50th anniversary of the laboratory in Ghent – Ghent Anniversary Symposium (September 18th – 20th 2023)
- Participation at the T-DO SCI meeting in Paris (September 29th 2023)
- Participation at iNADO webinar: "Overview of International Collaboration Projects among NADOs & RADOs" (September 22nd 2023)
- Participation at the Conference on “The Right to a Fair Procedure in Anti-Doping Proceedings” (October 3rd 2023)
- Participation at the meeting of the T-DO LI advisory group for legal issues in Riga, Latvia (October 4th 2023)
- Participation at the Warsaw Central Eastern European Anti-Doping Summit (October 9th – 10th 2023)
- Participation at the conference of COP9 UNESCO parties (October 25th – 26th 2023)
- Participation at the 1st online meeting of the Central-Eastern Anti-Doping Coordination Group (October 31st 2023)
- Participation at CAHAMA meeting in Strasbourg (November 8th – 9th 2023)
- Participation at the meeting of T-DO COMP advisory group on compliance with the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention, Strasbourg (November 9th – 10th 2023)

- Participation at the meeting of CEADO education group in Vienna (November 20th 2023)
- Participation at the meeting of T-DO EDU advisory group on education in the framework of obligations pursuant to the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No 135), Vienna (November 21st – 22nd 2023)
- Participation at the meeting of CEADO group in Vienna (November 26th 2023)
- Participation at the annual meeting of Seibersdorf laboratory (November 27th 2023)
- Participation at the meeting with NADA Austria in Vienna (November 28th 2023)
- Participation at the online meeting of advisory group on science within the framework of obligations pursuant to the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No 135) T-DO SCI regarding 2027 Code review (November 29th 2023)
- Participation at online meeting of the advisory group on legal issues within the framework of obligations pursuant to the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No 135) T-DO LI regarding 2027 Code review (November 30th 2023).

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 Rules on Therapeutic Use Exemption Approvals.

In 2023, sixteen (16) applications for a Therapeutic Use Exemption were submitted:

- The Committee reviewed nine (9) separate TUE applications (of which all nine were eligible under TUE Guidelines);
- Seven (7) TUE applications did not meet the conditions for review at the Committee session.

All nine (9) considered applications for Therapeutic Use Exemptions have been granted at Committee sessions held in 2023; all of which were proactive (PA) as there were no applications for retroactive (RA) Therapeutic Use Exemptions.

There were no denied Therapeutic Use Exemptions at Committee sessions held in 2023.

Unfounded TUE applications were handled administratively, without holding Committee sessions, i.e. such requests were denied.

Table 1 – TUE applications

Total number of applications	16
Total number of sessions held	9
Pending TUEs	0
Total number of granted TUEs	9
Total number of denied* TUEs	0
Total number of dismissed** applications	7

**-denied TUE: denied use of a prohibited substance and/or method by the TUE Committee*

**dismissed applications: applications for TUE that have been administratively rejected without holding TUE Committee sessions in cases where it was evident that the application does not meet the requirements for approval pursuant to the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions

Table 1a – granted TUEs according to type

Total number of proactive TUEs (PA)	9
Total number of retroactive TUEs (RA)	0

Table 2: Granted TUEs according to active substance, diagnosis and TUE type

Active Substance	Diagnosis	TUE Type
Prednisone	Ulcerative colitis	PA
Hydrochlorothiazide	Arterial hypertension	PA
Insulin (Aspart and Degludec)	Insulin-dependent diabetes	PA
Insulin, hydrochlorothiazide	Diabetes mellitus; Arterial hypertension	PA
Insulin (Glargin)	Type 2 diabetes	PA
Methylphenidate	ADHD	PA
Prednisone	Ulcerative colitis	PA
Degludec Insulin	Diabetes mellitus	PA
Modafinil	Narcolepsy and catalepsy, cerebral palsy	PA

Table 3: Unfounded Applications for Therapeutic Use Exemptions

Active Substance	Diagnosis	Reason
Triamcinolone (intrabursal)	Cysta Baker	Elimination time does not extend to the In-Competition period
Ethinylestradiol; Drospirenone	Dysmenorrhea	The substance is not included in the Prohibited List
Methylprednisolone	Cyst (knee)	Elimination time does not extend to the In-Competition period
Desloratadine	Vasomotor allergic rhinitis	The substance is not included in the Prohibited List
Ciclesonide, Salbutamol, Desloratadine, Azelastine, Olopatadine, Degludec Insulin	Allergic asthma and allergic rhinitis	The substance (Ciclesonide and Salbutamol) administration method is not prohibited, or included in the Prohibited List (all the other mentioned substances)
Degludec Insulin	Diabetes mellitus	Medical records were not submitted
Salbutamol	Asthma	The substance (Salbutamol) administration method is not prohibited in the List

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

With entry into force of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on May 25th, 2018, a system for secure electronic submission of TUE applications (via secure TUE portal) has been established. It provides utmost protection of applicants' personal and confidential data. In line with the security measures updates for protecting such data, other ways 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 2023, all documents on the procedure for receiving and granting TUEs have been updated.

6. MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

In 2023, the Counselling Centre continued providing 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 regarding issues pertaining to the use of medications in sports. The services of the Counselling Centre included:

- Counselling on substances and methods prohibited in sport (counselling athletes, coaches, physiotherapists, physicians);
- Inquiries and counselling of other persons in the field of anti-doping (parents of athletes, physical education teachers, pedagogues, fitness instructors, pharmacists, physicians, and others);
- Medical assistance in anti-doping matters, including results management, investigations, monitoring test results via ADAMS, ABP (haematological and steroidal modules), participating in the preparation and implementation of procedures associated with applications for therapeutic use exemptions;
- Investigation on the increased level of chorionic gonadotropin in male athletes in order to eliminate the suspected use of said substance for doping;
- Following professional publications and providing opinions or recommendations regarding results management;
- Cooperation with accredited laboratories regarding analysis of substances prohibited in sport;
- Experience and knowledge exchange with other organizations in the field of anti-doping;
- Updating materials and advancement of the system for TUE applications, including creating guidelines for TUE applications for corticosteroids injections in the period Out-of-Competition;
- Participating in the education of fourth year medical students in the field of anti-doping via online courses as part of the “Doping and Anti-Doping” study course, with emphasis on anti-doping legislation and system organization, anti-doping rule violations, sanctions, the Prohibited List, and doping control;

- Participating in the working group for updating the list of drugs, psychotropic substances and plants from which drugs can be obtained, and substances that can be used to produce drugs, as well as the List of Substances Prohibited in Sport for the implementation of Article 191.a. of the Criminal Act (OG 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15, 101/17, 118/18, 126/19, 84/21).

In 2023, the Counselling Centre for Anti-Doping carried out many consultations regarding inquiries from sport 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 on anabolic steroids, glucocorticoids, non-specific stimuli, alcohol and cannabis.

7. PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

In addition to other required equipment, all necessary supplies (doping control kits, face masks, and gloves) have been procured in 2023.