

WELCOME TO HALT4KIDS

HALT4Kids is a project funded by the EU (2023-25), focused on raising awareness of bullying and abuse in sport among young athletes (specifically aged 5 to 12). The project also aims to educate and support coaches, athletes/ex-athletes, physical education students, physical education teachers and other sports stakeholders who work with young athletes in recognising and preventing bullying and abuse among young athletes.

The UFEC hosts the Final Conference of the European HALT4KIDS project to strengthen the protection of children and adolescents in sport.



The final conference of the European project HALT4KIDS was held, a meeting that brought together federations, foundations, social organisations, professionals from the sports sector and public administrations—such as the Barcelona City Council and the Barcelona Provincial Council—at the UFEC headquarters, with the aim of strengthening the protection of children and adolescents across all areas of sports practice. UFEC is part of the project consortium and acts as the lead organisation for the communication work package.

The conference began with an institutional welcome by the President of UFEC, Gerard Esteva. This was followed by a presentation by Milena de Murga, Head of the UFEC Department of

Social Action and International Affairs, who outlined the organisation’s strategic lines as well as the European and social projects it promotes in the field of child protection.

Next, Stella Douka from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki—the university leading the project—and coordinator of HALT4KIDS, presented the main results of the project, including the tools, methodologies and training resources developed to prevent sexual violence in sports settings.

One of the central sessions of the event featured Pilar Polo, Head of Institutional Relations and Consultancy at the Vicki Bernadet Foundation, who presented the protocols developed for the Government of Catalonia to prevent sexual abuse in sport and to provide organisations with clear and effective guidelines for action.

The conference continued with Maria Zapata, Head of School Promotion at the Catalan Federation of Winter Sports, who shared best practices and preventive actions implemented within the federation. Subsequently, Laura Sabaté, Project Coordinator at the Barça Foundation, presented the initiative “Sport as a Tool for the Prevention of Peer Bullying,” a programme that uses sports activity as an educational resource to prevent bullying and promote safer environments.



One of the highlights of the event was the performance of the play ‘Pruna’ by the Nins Collective, written by playwright Queralt Riera, with the participation of actresses Laura Calvet and Annabel Castán. A poetic and moving play that addresses the issue of child abuse through the story of the

protagonist, Pruna, showing her life and the secret that marks her, using real testimonies to generate reflection and sensitivity on the subject, and which won the Adrià Gual Award in 2019.

KEY PROJECT UPDATES

Digital Story Board (Billy's Big Secret) & Mobile/Online Game (Peaceful Pines)

We would like to remind you that Peaceful Pines, an interactive game developed as part of the H4K project, is now available. This innovative tool is designed to educate and empower young athletes aged 9 to 12, promoting safer sporting environments through awareness and informed decision-making.

About Digital Story Board - Billy's Big Secret

The digital story board focuses on increasing the knowledge of child athletes for harassment and abuse in sport, by creating scenarios for child athletes aged 5 to 8, along with short readable and audible text.



In his office, the coach makes a strange request. He asks Billy to take off his shirt. To see how strong, he has become after so much practice and hard work. But Billy feels very strange about such a request.

[Read Text](#)

Screams NOOOOOOOO..... and runs fast outside feeling confused and upset.

[Read Text](#)

The characters in the digital story are presented as animals and the title is "Billy's Big Secret". It presents cases of harassment and abuse in sports in child athletes to promote awareness in athletes and also mobilize and sensitize the public about this, as well as to support the whistleblowing of harassment and abuse in sports in these ages.

You can access the digital story book on the Halt4Kids website here: <https://halt4kids.phed.auth.gr/digital-story/> or by scanning the QR code below:



About Mobile/Online Game (Peaceful Pines)

The game aligns with the H4K Project's mission to enable knowledge sharing and develop best practices in child athlete safeguarding. By fostering awareness and practical skills, the game, titled as 'Peaceful Pines', equips young athletes (of ages 9-12) to build confidence and resilience while encouraging sports stakeholders to create safe, inclusive spaces.



The game takes young players on a journey where they learn to:

- Identify Trusted Adults: Recognize who they can turn to for support.
- Recognize Safe and Unsafe Situations: Understand how to assess their surroundings.
- Learn Boundaries and Consent: Build confidence in setting personal limits.
- Report Inappropriate Behavior: Take actionable steps when encountering unsafe situations.

Through these missions, players navigate real-life scenarios, making decisions that help them understand harassment, abuse, and how to protect themselves in a supportive and engaging way.

You can start exploring the game **Peaceful Pines** now and join us in making sports safer for everyone. Together, we can empower the next generation of athletes with the tools they need to thrive.

You can access the online game from our website: https://halt4kids.phed.auth.gr/peaceful_pines/, or download the app on [Android here](#), [iOS here](#) or by scanning the QR codes below:



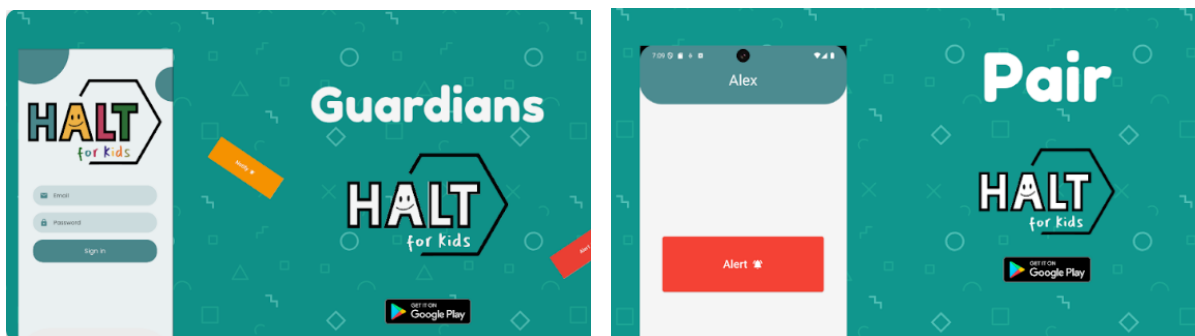
App Store



Play Store

HALT4Kids consolidates with the PAIR & GUARDIANS security applications

Great reception for the launch of the two cutting-edge mobile apps designed to improve safety in sport for children and young athletes: PAIR - HALT4Kids and GUARDIANS - HALT4Kids.

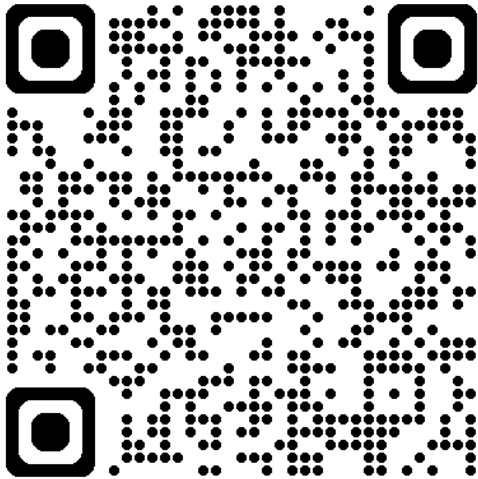


- ◆ **PAIR - HALT4Kids** empowers children to send real-time alerts when they feel unsafe—whether at school, in sport environments, or during everyday activities.
- ◆ **GUARDIANS - HALT4Kids** allows parents or trusted adults to pair their app with the child’s using a unique code and instantly receive location-tagged notifications when assistance is needed.

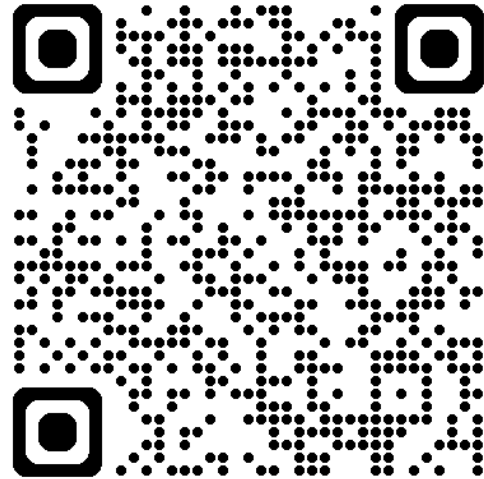
Together, these apps form a responsive alert system that allows families and caregivers to act swiftly and confidently in safeguarding their children from harassment and unsafe situations.

At HALT4Kids, we believe that digital tools can play a transformative role in building safe, inclusive, and supportive spaces in sport.

You can access both the apps from the HALT4Kids community portal here: <https://haltvm.phed.auth.gr/course/view.php?id=4> or download directly from the Android App store by scanning the QR codes below:



[GUARDIANS - Android Play Store](#)



[PAIR- Android Play Store](#)

RELATED NEWS FROM PARTNER COUNTRIES

HALT4Kids: How the project has strengthened our child protection framework

As the HALT4Kids project draws to a close, its impact at ASVÖ Salzburg is being consolidated as a decisive step forward in the field of child protection in sport. The project has provided a valuable impetus, helping to establish clear and sustainable structures that reinforce our long-term commitment to safeguarding children.

One of the main achievements has been the publication of the comprehensive child protection concept, which defines codes of conduct for coaches and officials, incorporates transparent complaint mechanisms and establishes structured procedures for handling cases and sensitive situations. This framework provides security and guidance to children, families, clubs and professionals, integrating child protection as a central element of our organisation.

Furthermore, HALT4Kids has generated materials and digital tools that will continue to be used beyond the project, such as the Digital Story and the Community of Practice. These resources will allow for the continued sensitisation, training and empowerment of member clubs, contributing to the creation of ever safer, more responsible and child-welfare-committed sporting environments.



Presents at the 25th Sports and Recreation Management Conference

The HALT4Kids project was present at the 25th Sports and Recreation Management Conference, held in Thessaloniki from 5 to 7 December 2025. As part of the event, Lilou Olympia presented the HALT4Kids Digital Story, a key tool for raising awareness and prevention in the field of child protection in sport.

The conference, organised by the Hellenic Scientific Association for Sport and Recreation Management (HSASMR), brought together professionals, researchers and industry experts, establishing itself as a key forum for the exchange of knowledge and best practices in sports and recreation management.



Child protection in sport at the heart of HALT4Kids' outreach activities.

The HALT4Kids project continued to expand its impact with its promotion at the International Conference on Protection in Sport, held in Hungary at the Hungarian University of Sports Sciences. This presence enabled the project to be showcased in a first-rate academic and professional setting, focused on the safety and well-being of children in the sporting sphere.

Parallel to this, HALT4Kids also featured in two local workshops aimed at families, organised by the Keravnos Basketball Academy and the APOEL Handball Academy. These sessions helped to strengthen collaboration with parents and other key stakeholders, promoting shared responsibility in creating safer sporting environments.

In all these outreach activities, the project's digital tools were presented, designed to prevent bullying and abuse in children's sport, reinforcing awareness, prevention, and collective commitment to the protection of children.



HALT4Kids project is focused on developing awareness about harassment and abuse in sports among child athletes, coaches, athletes/former athletes, physical education students, physical education teachers and sport sector stakeholders.

Visit the website and follow the social media channels of the HALT4Kids project to keep yourself updated about the upcoming events and reports:

Website <http://halt4kids.phed.auth.gr>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091602860387

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/halt4kids/

X (formerly TWITTER): <https://X.com/HALT4kids>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/halt4kids/>

Don't want to miss any update from HALT4Kids? [Click here](#) to join the mailing list and receive this Newsletter and other updates about the HALT4Kids project straight to your inbox.