



# FANS AGAINST VIOLENCE

NATIONAL REPORT

TURKEY

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## **Foreword from the Project Director Dr. Emir Turam**

This report is one of the initial outputs of the first (and as of this date only) European Commission supported Erasmus+ Sport Project of Turkish Sports. After putting a lot of serious work into the preparation of the project, and after being honored by the Commission with their support, we immediately went to work.

The official project statement spoke up in itself: “The Fans Against Violence” project aims to reduce violence in sport field particularly in basketball by raising empathy, understanding and tolerance among different fan groups of different teams and gathering them among a higher value. raising empathy, understanding and tolerance among different fan groups of different teams and gathering them among a higher value.”

Together with our partner Federations, we first needed to establish knowledge about the present situation in each country, so that we could then put into effective action any/all accordingly positioned operations prepared within the project goals. So we did a lot of research – fan surveys, academic analysis, widespread brainstorming in the form of ‘Fact Finding Conferences’, in depth interviews with critical stakeholders ... among others.

This research was important to understand current status about country realities about fan violence – in each country first, and also as a group of countries. The goal of the project was to create some kind of ‘tangible standing’ against all kind of fan violence that could make itself felt – not with harsh regulations and punishments – but by emphasizing empathy, mutual understanding between the fans, and certainly appreciation of the pleasures of modern basketball.

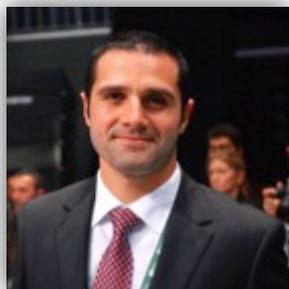
Our main method to reach this goal was to design and implement quite a few operations together with fan leaders (and groups) rather than single-handedly creating measures from above and imposing them in the form of restrictions upon the fans.

Some of our side-goals were to create awareness of fan incidents that had increased in the last decade, and even create an example for other sport branches that can have more frequent and in-depth fan violence incidents.

The below country report for Turkey contains the above-mentioned research and related efforts – which were conducted by a highly qualified team of academics - to analyse the present situation related to basketball fan circles in Turkey. The field survey turned out to be the most comprehensive academic fan survey conducted in Turkey as of this date. The outcomes are finding a lot of reflections – our project team and our academic support team are being invited to various seminars and TV programs around Turkey to share the findings.

Needless to say, the same research was done simultaneously in Bulgaria, Croatia, Lithuania, and Spain besides Turkey. An International report will be created by combining joint findings and comparing the 5 national reports.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## What is “Fans Against Violence” Project?

“Fans Against Violence” is a European Commission Erasmus + Sport Programme Project that aims to unite different fan groups under the roof of basketball and to increase the understanding, tolerance and communication among them and is organised with the partnership of the Bulgaria, Croatia, Spain and Lithuania Basketball Federations under the leadership of the Turkish Basketball Federation.

The main goal of the project is to unite different fan groups under the roof of basketball and to reduce violence by increasing the understanding and empathy between them.

## Rationale For The Research

This research is very important because it constitutes one of the very first examples of such a comprehensive study done on the subject of “violence in basketball”. This research is unique because it uses a variety of methodologies simultaneously. We interviewed focus groups (involved the representatives of Turkish basketball at highest level), conducted fan surveys (a total of 1124 fans representing 8 different teams) and completed in-depth interviews (10 interviews with national players, trainers etc.). In addition to these research methods, a comprehensive literature review on the subject of “fan violence” was conducted.

# Basketball in Turkey

In Turkey, basketball was first played in 1904 in the sports hall of Robert College. This match, supervised by the American teachers, was nothing more than a trial. In 1911, physical education teacher of Galatasaray High School Ahmet Robenson translated basketball rules into our language and arranged matches among teams of five persons each. In 1913, Fenerbahçe Sports Club included basketball into its activities. The club brought an American teacher over in 1919, yet it had to cease its efforts since no opponent could be found.

Initial organized efforts regarding basketball in our country were commenced in 1920. In 1919, with the initiation of Selim Sirri Tarcan, Dr. Deaver, the manager of American Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) that had opened a branch in Turkey, began teaching basketball to the students of Cagaloğlu Higher Teacher Education School. The first recorded match was played on 4 April 1921, between the school team consisting of Ahmet Robenson, Hilmi Bey, Misel Efendi, Ziya Bey and Armenak Efendi and the American team of the YMCA and ended 18-14 in favor of the Americans.

The first basketball league of Turkey was founded in 1927 in Istanbul. Maccabi, consisting of Jewish players, maintained its championship until 1933, and with TICI (Turkiye Idman Cemiyetleri Ittifakı - Alliance of Turkish Gymnastique Clubs) having approached basketball in 1933, the first official basketball league was organized. The team of Galatasaray, having gained strength with the efforts of Nail Moran and Feridun Serifzade, completed the first year as the crowned champion and didn't lose the championship to anyone for three years (1933-35).

Turkey played its first international match on 24 July 1936 with Greece. Turkish basketball players, who had brought the national team of Greece to Turkey by assuming their costs, won the first match played in the hall of Beyoglu Community Center 49-12. The Turkish national team attended the Berlin 1936 Olympic Games yet could not earn a top ranking.

Basketball, having entered in a period of stagnation in 1940's, with the launch of Turkish Championship, in which the top teams of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir participated, began to liven up starting from 1946. The European Basketball Championship held in 1949 in Cairo was the first European Championship in which Turkey participate, and the Turkish national team ranked 4th at this championship. The International Istanbul Basketball Tournament held in 1950 was the first international event held in Turkey in this field. The Men's Junior Championship, held for the first time in 1956, was won by Fenerbahçe, and the Women's Championship of 1959 was won by the Gazi Education Institute. The European Basketball Championship held in 1959 in Istanbul was followed by the foundation of the Turkish Basketball Federation. And in 1960, the Turkish national team participated in the 2nd Balkan Basketball Championship, held in Sofia.

With the regulation nr. 12476 dated 13 December 1966, the leagues, which today are shortly referred to as "Displacement Basketball League" started. Starting from the 1968-69 season, the Basketball Federation founded the Second Displacement League. Furthermore, upon the establishment of basketball teams by some private organization in the 1970's, Turkish basketball entered a period of development, and in 1977, Turkey became the European Champion at the European Basketball Championship for Juniors held in France.

## Women's Basketball

In 1981, Women's Displacement League competitions started to be organized, and thereafter starting from 1982, the winning team of the Turkish Women's League began to represent Turkey in Europe. In 1993, women's Turkish Cup was launched.

In 2001, Botas Sports Club played in the final at the Ronchetti Cup, and in 2004, Fenerbahçe succeeded in being one of the final four teams at "Euro CUP" and hosted the "Final Four" organization in Istanbul.



Today, the Turkish Women's National Team is one of the most successful teams in the world. The Turkish Women's National Team participated in the 2012 London Olympics but lost in the quarter finals to Russia. The team achieved 5th place in the overall standings. They achieved significant successes by coming in 2nd place at the 2011 European Championships and 3rd place in 2013.

## Basketball's Firsts

In 1985, Galatasaray High School, representing Turkey, came in second at the World High Schools Basketball Championship. The Match of the President's Cup, launched in the same year, was played between the Play-Off Champion, Galatasaray, and the leader of the normal season, Fenerbahçe, on 6 April 1985 and the President's Cup was won by Galatasaray, having beaten Fenerbahçe 85-84. In 1992, the matches of the final group of European Champions Cup were played in Istanbul. Efes Pilsen, which played in the final at the European Champions Cup in 1993, lost the final game played on 24 July in Torino with a score as low as 50-48 against Greece and came in second place. Turkey made it to the finals at the European Basketball Championship for Juniors held in Trabzon in 1993 and came in fourth. In the 1994-95 season, Efes Pilsen, Ulker, Fenerbahçe, among the men's teams, and IUSBK and Galatasaray, among the women's teams, succeeded in making it to the groups at the cups they have played. Galatasaray, on the other hand, was the first Turkish women's club team to make it to the last four teams at this cup.

Efes Pilsen, with Fenerbahçe having been knocked out in the quarter final and T. Bologna in the semi-finals, made it to the final at the Korac Cup played in January 1996. Efes Pilsen, which had narrowly missed the European Clubs Cup in 1993, at the final of the Korac Cup became the champion by beating the Italian team Stefanel Milano after two games with score advantage. The Korac Cup, won by Efes Pilsen, made history as the first European Cup won by Turkey among team sports on a club basis. In 1997, 9 teams of the Turkish League were qualified to participate in the European Cups. Efes Pilsen made it to 1999-2000 season European League Final Four and came in third place.



Turkish Basketball achieved the biggest success in its history in 2001. The Turkish national team, having faced Spain, Latvia and Slovenia at the 32nd European Basketball Championship held in Turkey, made it out of the group and first beat one of the world giants, Croatia, and thereafter, Germany in the semifinals and made it to the finals. In the final, the national team lost to the most recent European and World champion, Yugoslavia, and won the silver medal.

Turkish teams achieved, in particular in the 2000's, great successes. In 2002, the National A Team competed for the first time at the 14th World Championship. The games were held in two halls, the RCA Dome and the Conseco Fieldhouse, in Indianapolis, USA, and after matches one more competitive and exciting than the other, Turkish national team, also called "12 Giant Men", succeeded in completing this championship in ninth place.

In 2004, the Basketball Federation became an autonomous structure and assigned renowned Yugoslavian trainer Bogdan Tanjevic to the supervision of the National A Team. Immediately prior to and after 2000's, Turkish basketball players gained individual successes as well. Mirsad Turkcan became the first Turkish basketball player to play in the NBA. Mirsad, selected by Houston Rockets in 1998, also played for the New York Knicks and Milwaukee Bucks to whom his rights were traded. In the 2001-2002 season, Turkcan started to play for CSKA Moscow and was selected as the most valuable player (MVP) in the Euro League and became the first Turkish basketball player to receive this title. CSKA Moscow became the European League Champion in the season of 2003-04.

After Mirsad Turkcan in 1999, Hidayet Turkoglu in 2000, Mehmet Okur in 2001, Ibrahim Kutluay in 2004, Ersan Ilyasova in 2006, Semih Erden and Omer Asik in 2010, Enes Kanter in 2011 and finally Furkan Aldemir joined the NBA.

## Latest Achievements

2001 / National Team, 2nd place in the European Championship

2005 / Women's National Team, 8th place in the European Championship (Joined a European Championship for the first time. Before, qualification matches were played.)

2006 / National Team, 6th place in the World Championship

2007 / Women's National Team, 9th place in the European Championship

2009 / Women's National Team, 9th place in the European Championship

2010 / National Team, 2nd place in the FIBA World Championship

2011 / Women's National Team, 2nd place in the European Championship

2012 / Women's National Team joined the London Olympics for the first time and won 5th place.

2013 / Women's National Team, 3rd place in the European Championship

2013 / 1st place in the Mediterranean Games

2015 / Women's National Team won 5th place in the European Championship and won the right to join qualifiers for the Rio Olympics.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Section 02 covers literature review on fans'/spectators' violent behaviours.

### Aggression

Aggression is a negative personality trait that has been associated with sport participation. "Aggression is operationally defined as an intentional physically or psychologically harmful behaviour that is directed at another living organism" (Thirer, 1993, pp.365).

The aggressive actions of sport spectators can be classified as either hostile or instrumental (Bredemeier, 1994; Silva, 1980; Wann, 1997). The main motivation of the hostile type of spectator aggression is anger with the aim of harming another person. For instance, sometimes fans throw objects onto players and officials because they are angry at them and want to physically or psychologically harm them. On the other hand, instrumental spectator aggression refers to violent actions which are intended to harm another person, but with the goal of achieving a purpose. In other words, compared to hostile aggression, in instrumental aggression the spectator's main goal might be to take advantage of their aggressive behaviours in order to affect the officials or players decision (Keeler, 2007). For example, fans may yell at officials and opposing players to influence their concentration and increase their team's chances of success. The objective of the study is to identify the differences between hostile and instrumental aggression in terms of fans' level of identification.

### Theories Which Tend To Explain Aggression

In sport and social sciences literature, aggression has been studied on many levels including behaviour within the context of sport and within daily life. One of the well known theories which explain aggression is the Revised Frustration-Aggression Theory (Berkowitz, 1982). This theory consists of aspects from Bandura's (1973) Social Learning Theory and Smith's (1972) Frustration and Aggression Theory.

Berkowitz (1982) proposed that when organisms react in an aggressive way they face aversive stimulation. However, not all frustrations are aversive, and thus frustration does not always lead to aggression. Berkowitz also argued that when the organism faces an unpleasant situation, it pushes the organism to a drive to hurt somebody, which helps the organism to gain satisfaction and reinforcement from damaging the source of the aversive stimulation. Aversive stimuli are associated with a readiness to flee or to fight in organisms. According to Berkowitz (1981), "all aversive events, whether frustration, deprivations, noxious stimuli or environmental stresses, produce an instigation to aggression as well as a desire to escape or avoid the unpleasant situation" (pp. 174).

An individual's learning history influences the tendency in terms of domination. Compared to an experienced individual, in the inexperienced organism, the dominant tendency is to fight. Berkowitz (1981) stated that "the aggressive tendencies may be oriented partly toward the termination or reduction of the aversive stimulus, but at the human level, they are also directed toward doing injury. That is, those who are in physical or mental pain are inclined to hurt someone even though their aggression cannot lessen their own suffering, and even if the victim is not the source of their suffering" (pp.174). Berkowitz (1988) redefined frustration in his theory as "the nonfulfillment of an expected gratification" (pp. 3). Frustration may be related to positive or negative responses, depending on how the frustration is experienced by individual.

When we compare the effects of arbitrary and non-arbitrary frustration on aggressive behaviour, Berkowitz (1988) proposed that, arbitrary frustration is more unexpected than non-arbitrary frustration. According to him, arbitrary frustration is more aversive than non-arbitrary frustration because unfulfilled expectations are aversive. In addition to this, the justification which accompanies non-arbitrary frustration restrains aggressive behaviour. The aggression which follows the arbitrary frustration is attributable to legitimate frustration. Besides, the aggression which is added to the aversiveness is also related to the arbitrary frustration. Furthermore, Berkowitz (1988) claimed that legitimate frustration can also lead people to aggressive act. Besides, legitimate frustration can be experienced as an aversive by an individual. Human beings avoid frustrations because frustrations are usually unpleasant.

In his theory, Berkowitz (1988) pays attention to the factors associated with the strength of frustration, like the value of the goal and the degree of interference for the individual. He underlined this capacity because Berkowitz argued that these factors influence the level of aversiveness experienced by the individual. Besides, Berkowitz's (1993) main focus of attention was on reactive aggression. He agreed that many acts of aggression can be identified as learned instrumental behaviour. For example; football fans may learn that aggressive behaviours in stadiums can help them attain their interpersonal objectives, and so they may come to rely on such techniques. In Berkowitz's (1989) point of view, reactive aggression mostly goes along with the instrumental type of aggression. In addition, according to revised frustration-aggression theory, a person gains some pleasure by hurting the victim. Over time, when the person gains experience, his reactions are mostly directed by the environmental cues. Firstly, aversive stimulation reinforces aggressive drive. However, absence of an appropriate environmental cue, the desire to hurt somebody will not automatically transform into aggressive behaviour for a mature individual.

Being aggressive and defending your team by using violence is valued by football fans in many countries. Many research results showed that, spectators rapidly learn that displaying aggressive behaviour is a way to gain individual recognition in their group. Moreover, a lot of fan groups accept and reinforce these aggressive acts (Spaaij, 2007). Social learning theory has been accepted by lots of empirical studies (Thirer, 1993), and it underlines the influence of an individual's environment and significant others on the development or control of aggressive behaviours. According to social learning theory, modelling and reinforcement are the two key aspects in terms of learning aggressive behaviour.

Social identity theory proposes that an individual's self-concept consists of a personal identity that includes specific attributes, like personal interests, abilities and a social identity which includes various social categories, such as fan, parent, student or worker (Tajfel & Turner, 1986; Turner, 1982). Social classifications allow a person to locate and define others within the social environment as well as locate and define himself/herself within the social system. In sport, social identification occurs when one perceives a sense of oneness or belongingness to a team, thereby defining him/herself in terms of that group (Hogg, Terry, & White, 1995).

Social identity theory is adaptable for identifying and understanding aggressive spectator behaviour for many reasons. Firstly, sport spectator behaviour involves interpersonal and group relationships and in general it is socially observable. Secondly, it often revolves around the differentiations which exist between opposing groups, and it is heavily influenced by the level of fan identification with his/her team. According to Puddifoot (1997), a given social identity like fatherhood, or an individual's knowledge that he or she is a member of a particular social group such as being a fan of a sport team, becomes appealing to an individual when identification with that group will lead to self-enhancement or positive-self identity.

When an individual classifies himself/herself as a fan of a specific team, an individual may likely partake in behaviours such as following the game schedule, discussing game results with other fans, and purchasing team memorabilia (Holt, 1995). These classifying practices build affiliation (i.e., shows we are part of a specific team group), and build distinction (i.e., shows we are not part of the rival team group) (Holt, 1995).

Wann's (1993) self-esteem maintenance hypothesis also addresses the relationship between sport fan identification and spectator violence. Wann argued that highly identified fans are less able to protect their self-esteem by distancing themselves from the team after failure, but are more likely to repair their identities by acting in a negative or hostile manner against players or fans of the opposing team. Wann focused on this process, called 'blasting' which has been underlined from social identity theory. According to social identity theory, individuals have a basic need to see themselves in a positive light in relation to significant others (Hogg et al., 1995). Being aggressive is a good example of one such social creativity strategy. According to researchers, by acting aggressively toward rival groups, people maintain the perception that they are 'better fans' than others, which subsequently leads to increases in self-esteem (Oakes & Turner, 1980; Wann, 1993). Furthermore, most of the studies showed that fan identification is not related to trait aggression (e.g., Wann, Fahl, Erdmann, & Littleton, 1999; Wann, Peterson, Cothran, & Dykes, 1999; Wann, Shelton, Smith, & Walker, 2002), study results showed that fan identification affects fan's instrumental aggression more (Wann, Carlson, & Schrader, 1999; Wann, Peterson, et al., 1999). Therefore, high-identified spectators may hold more positive attitudes towards fan aggression because it offers them an opportunity for identity reparation following their team's losses.

The need for positive distinctiveness may also affect perceptions of behavioural control in stadiums. “Team failure undermines the need for positive distinctiveness, and although social creativity mechanisms allow identity reparation, highly identified fans may become frustrated by team failure and lose a sense of behavioural control as a result” (Dimmock & Grove, 2005 pp. 39). Research results shows that high-identified fans experience greater levels of arousal and anxiety while watching their team compete (Wann, Schrader, & Adamson, 1998) probably because their identity and evaluation of self is on trial. Participative norms on aggression are likely to be related due to the ‘false consensus effect.’ The false consensus effect refers to the tendency of people “to see their own behavioural choices and judgements as relatively common and appropriate to existing circumstances while viewing alternate responses as uncommon, deviant, or inappropriate” (Ross, Greene, & House, 1977, pp.280). Russell (1995) showed strong evidence for the existence of the false consensus effect in sport. Russell discovered that fact that fans with motives for attending a hockey game because they “liked to watch the fights” also believed that other fans attended the game for the same reason.

## Team Identification

Team identification is defined as the extent to which a fan feels psychologically connected to a team (Wann, 1997). Recent studies have shown that high identified fans are more likely to act aggressively compared to fans that have low levels of identification (Branscombe & Wann, 1992a, 1994), and research has begun to include this variable in models of fan violence (e.g., Branscombe & Wann, 1992b; Simons & Taylor, 1992; Wann, 1993). Wann & Branscombe (1992) hypothesized in their research that highly identified fans would report higher levels of both hostile and instrumental aggression than low identification fans. According to their study, researchers found that aggression directed toward the officials was more likely to be hostile ( $M = 2.86$ ,  $SD = 2.16$ ) than instrumental ( $M = 2.22$ ,  $SD = 1.88$ ).

Mostly, high identified fans feel an emotional ownership in the team and make sacrifices like devoting a considerable amount of time following the team (Sutton, McDonald, Milne, & Cimperman, 1997). Furthermore, high identified spectators often leads to commitment beyond that found in fair weather fans (Quick, 2000).

According to Wann & Branscombe (1993), highly identified fans should be particularly likely to display hostile aggression for two reasons. First, for the fan that identifies him/herself highly with his/her team, the role of team follower is a central and one of the most important components of his/her the social identity. Therefore, the highly identified fans’ sense of self-worth is highly related to their team’s performance (Tajfel, 1981; Tajfel & Turner, 1979; Wann, Royalty, & Roberts, 1999). In Wann, Royalty, & Roberts’ study (1999), participants were 73 university students. The participants were asked to complete a questionnaire packet containing four sections. There were three hypotheses tested in their research: that highly identified participants would be more likely to present themselves as a fan of their team than low identified participants. Study results showed that, both level of team identification and level of self-esteem were related to an individual’s decision to strategically self-present his or herself as a fan of a specific team to a fan of a rival team. However, self-esteem did not impact one’s decision of whether or not to present oneself as a fan of a particular team. Identification and self-esteem accounted for 44.78% of the variability.

According to Wann & Branscombe (1993), there are also two main reasons why highly identified fans should display high levels of instrumental aggression. (Wann, Carlson, Schrader, 1999) Firstly, for the high identified spectators, fan identification is central to their identity. It is for this reason that, for the most part, highly identified fans receive the greatest benefits from their team's successes. According to a considerable number of studies, fans who have a high level of identification report high levels of positive influence and self-esteem after watching their team win (Cialdini et al., 1976; Hirt et al., 1992; Wann et al., 1994). Secondly, according to their studies, scientists have found that highly identified persons are more likely to attempt to affect the result of sporting events (Wann et al., 1994), and these attempts mostly include instrumental aggression (Wann, Peterson, Cothran, & Dykes, 1999). According to Wann et. al.'s (1999) study, spectators were asked to state the extent to which they had acted verbally aggressive toward the officials and opposition for hostile and instrumental reasons. Researchers applied pre- and post-game questionnaires to 196 college students. Researchers used Sport Spectator Identification Scale (Wann and Branscombe, 1993) before the game and Hostile and Instrumental Aggression of Spectators Questionnaire (Wann et al., 1999) after the game. Participants reported higher levels of hostile aggression compared to instrumental aggression. Researchers found that aggression that is directed to the officials was more likely to be hostile aggression than instrumental, whereas aggression that is directed toward the opposition was equal in the way of being hostile and instrumental. (Wann et al., 1999).

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# 3. HISTORY/BACKGROUND

## Violence in Sport in Turkey (Aligned Chronologically)

### **FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN FENERBAHCE AND GALATASARAY (06.11.2002)**

A match that made history... Fenerbahce defeated its long-standing rival, Galatasaray by an outstanding score of 6-0. The fact that Eser Ozaltindere, who was coaching the goalkeepers of Galatasaray back then, was injured because of the foreign objects thrown by fans of Fenerbahçe and his head was cracked was the worst thing that could happen during such a game. The events at the match, which was postponed because of the European Cup match Galatasaray would play, resulted in a “stadium ban for 1 match,” was applied during the league match with Bursaspor.



### **FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN BESIKTAS AND GALATASARAY (31.10.2003)**

The derby between Besiktas and Galatasaray during the first half of 2003-2004 season ended scoreless, but what left a mark on the match was that the fans of Galatasaray tried to enter the field by taking down the bars in front of the Old Open Tribune of Inonu Stadium. Rival fans at different tribunes caused a huge risk by throwing smoldering torches to each other. The chaos on the field also continued in the corridors of the stadium. People entered the corridors leading to the locker rooms and attacked players and the managers. Tensions between players during the whole match continued even in the locker rooms.

### **FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN FENERBAHÇE AND GALATASARAY (06.11.2002)**

During the events that occurred after the match between Bursaspor and Samsunspor, played in Sakarya because of a stadium ban imposed on Bursaspor, five people were injured. At the end of the match at Sakarya Ataturk Stadium, fans of Bursaspor who couldn't accept the fact that the team had dropped from the league, in spite of the fact that their team had won the game set, the seats on fire. The police had to fire their guns in the air after the fans created chaos outside the stadium, too. As a result, five people (two of whom were policemen) were injured. When attempts were made to send the fans of Bursaspor back to their hometown, they attacked the policemen serving on the crossroads and smashed the windows of the houses on the way.

### **FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN FENERBAHÇE AND GALATASARAY (06.11.2002)**

During the football match between Besiktas and Caykur Rizespor at Inonu stadium, one person was killed in a stabbing. This 16-year-old fan, Cihat Aktas who was stabbed during the fight at the grandstand during halftime of the match between Besiktas and Caykur Rizespor, lost his life at the hospital he was taken to. According to the information obtained, during the halftime of the match at İnönü Stadium there was a fight between the fans in the grandstand. It was reported that Cihat Aktas was stabbed from the left side of his chest and his abdomen with a sharp and perforating object. It was also reported that he was a high-school student who had come to Istanbul from Adana for a holiday. It was claimed that a card with the logo of Fenerbahce was found in his pocket. Fatih Sozuer (22), who was taken to Public Security Branch Office in Gayrettepe regarding the murder, confessed his crime in his statement. It was learnt that Fatih Sozuer put the knife he used into his shoe, that he did it because of "being shouldered," after which the two started fighting. It was also learnt that the suspect took the knife and stabbed the victim on two parts of his body.

### **FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN FENERBAHÇE AND EVERTON (30.07.2005)**

Fenerbahçe hosted the British football club Everton at the Atatürk Olympic Stadium for a scrimmage before the season started and had won the match with the score 5-0. A fan named Yusuf Behar who was seated at the tribune was shot in his leg and the source of bullet wasn't found. A rowdy fan who came to tribune with a gun celebrated the goal of Tuncay Sanlı on the 25th minute by firing his gun into the air. A person was injured as a result.

### **FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN DIYARBAKIRSPOR AND KONYASPOR (26.02.2006)**

A fuss had been kicked up during the football match between Diyarbakirspor and Konyaspor within the 2005-2006 season. First, Bebbe, who scored the first goal for Konyaspor in the 22nd minute, was kicked by Felat Hevedanlı, the manager of Diyarbakirspor, and afterwards in the 86th minute, a group of fans at the back-goal tribune threw the seats they broke to the field and then entered the field by taking down the bars. After some of the spectators at other tribunes entered to the field, there was chaos. Some of the spectators tried to attack the players of Konyaspor. In the meantime, some fans attacked the police with stones and the seats they broke. The referee, Kuddusi Muftuoğlu and the players of Konyaspor were taken to the locker room under the protection of the police. In the ensuing brawl between the police and fans, many people including security forces, were injured. The majority of the spectators were taken out of the stadium. Later on, the players of Diyarbakirspor also went to the locker rooms. Only policemen, journalists and the employees were on the field while the happenings continued outside. Policemen fired their guns into the air to scatter the fans.

### **FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN FENERBAHÇE AND GALATASARAY (03.12.2006)**

During the derby which started with the bottle thrown to Mondragon who was warming up before the match in Kadıköy, there was almost a rain of foreign objects into the field. During the match, a foreign object which was thrown from the tribune of Fenerbahçe fans hit the head of Erik Gerets, coach of Galatasaray. The Belgian coach whose forehead was cracked and bled a lot, watched the game like that for a long time. Afterwards the wound of the crack was closed following a medical dressing.

### **FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN GALATASARAY AND FENERBAHÇE (19.05.2007)**

It went down in the history of football as the 'wet derby' when approximately 20,000 water bottles were thrown on the grass of Ali Sami Yen Stadium. Because of the thrown water bottles, the players of Fenerbahçe couldn't shoot any corner kicks and even the Turkish National Anthem couldn't be sung. Players encountered difficulties during throw-ins and corner kicks, and a five match stadium ban was imposed on Galatasaray.

### **FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN TRABZONSPOR AND SIVASSPOR (12.08.2007)**

It was only the first week of the Super League's 2007-2008 season, but the fans of Trabzonspor were so tense even from the first week that they dared to attack the players of Sivasspor, even though their team was winning during the last minutes of the game. According to the statement by Zeyyat Kafkas, Press Officer of Trabzonspor Football Club to Can Karyagdi, reporter of Lig TV, a five match stadium ban was imposed on Trabzonspor by the Professional Football Discipline Committee due to this match. In addition, the PDFC imposed a fine of 30.000 TL due to the events during and after the match and 31.000 TL due to the fuss in the corridors. The PDFC imposed a fine of 250.000 TL on Sivasspor due to the fuss during this match. Also, Nuri Bekar of the Trabzonspor Media Center was deemed ineligible because of his assault on the fans of Sivasspor in the field. Due to this ban, Trabzonspor played the matches with Caykur Rizespor, Ankaragucu, Konyaspor, Besiktas and Ankaraspor without spectators.

## BASKETBALL MATCH BETWEEN FENERBAHÇE AND EFES PILSEN (18.06.2009)

While Efes Pilsen had become the champion by beating Fenerbahçe Ülker by 79-76 with the score 4-2 in the final series, unfortunate events occurred after the match. During the 4th quarter, a quarrel between fans in the tribune where the families of the athletes were watching the game turned into a big fight. While the quarrel between the fans of Fenerbahçe turned into boxing despite all the attempts of the security guards to stop and only the police could stop the fight in which the seats were thrown in the air. The game didn't stop due to the fight. Since the fight occurred where the families of the athletes were watching the game, it was interesting to see the substitute players looking at that tribune instead of the game. The police took the people who were part of the fight into custody.



After Efes Pilsen declared its championship, the hall turned into a war zone. While fans of Fenerbahçe Ülker threw plastic bottles, coins, lighters and even the seats of the court after the game finished, some fans jumped into the court from the tribunes. While Kaya Peker boxed with the fans who attacked the players of Efes Pilsen celebrating their championship on the bench, player Charles Smith and the coach, Ergin Ataman, were also attacked. Ergin Ataman was kicked in his back, and the security that interfered took the

players and technical team of Efes Pilsen to the locker rooms. Aziz Yıldırım, president of the Fenerbahçe Sports Club, and Ali Koc, who were watching the game together with the other managers of the team, tried to prevent the fight. While the fans were also taken out after the intervention by the police, this time they started throwing the seats after breaking them. Although Ali Koc, who tried to calm the fans down by coming to the front of the tribune, succeeded, some of the press members were injured due to things thrown and their equipment damaged. Moreover, fans of Fenerbahçe Ülker who attacked the area where fans of Efes Pilsen stood were stopped by the police, and some of them were taken into custody. After this outbreak, Abdi İpekçi Sports Hall had to be emptied for the trophy ceremony. Police took all the fans of Fenerbahçe Ülker into the hall, and Efes Pilsen could only take the trophy after this precaution. In the meantime, Turgay Demirel, President of the Basketball Federation who was watching the game with Aziz Yıldırım didn't stay for the ceremony.

### **FOOTBALL MATCH BETWEEN DİYARBAKIRSPOR AND FENERBAHÇE (24.08.2009)**

During the first weeks of 2009-2010 season in the Super League, Fenerbahçe was ahead of Diyarbakirspor with a score of 2-1, but the fans of Diyarbakirspor threw everything they could onto the field. The referee, Suat Arslanboğa, had to pause the match three times. At one point, a fan entered the field, and the events continued outside the stadium, too. Again after the match, a group outside the stadium caused a disturbance. There was a fight between a group and the police forces because the group was not allowed to enter the stadium after Fenerbahçe was ahead with the score of 3-1. As other fans joined the fight when the match was over, the group started to throw stones at the police forces. After this, the police forces interfered by using pressurized water and pepper gas. While the group was being scattered by the police to the back streets of Ofis, the windows of an ambulance were broken during the events. The team of Fenerbahçe couldn't leave the Diyarbakir Atatürk Stadium until approximately two hours after the match due to the events.

### **BASKETBALL MATCH BETWEEN GALATASARAY AND FENERBAHÇE (15.11.2009)**



As always, the derby match on the 5th week of the Beko Basketball League was not a calm one. While the match would go into extra-time after a tie, the tension, which started between a female fan of Fenerbahçe and fans of Galatasaray, spread all over Abdi İpekçi Sports Hall. Again, the events during the match between Fenerbahçe Ülker and Galatasaray Cafe Crown in the Beko Basketball League hit the headlines. It was claimed that the reason for this was the fact that a fan of

Fenerbahçe, Ayşe Demet Karabulut, who had entered the match with a sponsored ticket from Cafe Crown, the sponsor of Galatasaray showed her middle finger to the fans of Galatasaray sitting behind her. While the foreign objects thrown caused Lokam Ünal, chief of police to get stitches on his head, a fan named Erdim Coşkun had punched Kinsey, a player of Fenerbahçe. Eleven people, including Karabulut, who had started the fight during the match between Fenerbahçe and Efes Pilsen and caused her team to receive a five match ban, and Erdim Coşkun, who had punched a basketball player of Fenerbahçe, and a photo journalist were taken into custody by units of the İstanbul Sport Security Branch. Legal proceedings were initiated against the suspects who were claimed to have violated sports law no. 5149.

## **WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL MATCH BETWEEN GALATASARAY AND BEŞİKTAŞ (09.12.2012)**

The wheelchair basketball match between Galatasaray and Beşiktaş RMK Marine couldn't be completed due to the happenings at the arena. There was a fuss during the match between Galatasaray and Beşiktaş RMK Marine, played at Ahmet Cömert Sports Hall, on the second week of the Turkish Wheelchair Basketball Super League. Before the game could start at 14.00, there was tension between the fans of two teams. A small number of fans of both teams had come to the hall to watch the game, and the tension between them was reflected on the court.



Since some fans entered the court, the beginning of the game was delayed. In order to increase the level of security in the hall' they waited for the arrival of additional security. For this reason, the game started half an hour late. During the game, Besiktas finished the first quarter ahead at 22-21. While Galatasaray was ahead with 31-26 during the 14th minute of the game, there was a tension between the fans of the two teams in the tribunes, and the game stopped. Security forces used pepper gas on the fans who were lighting torches and throwing foreign objects at each other. While the tribunes were being emptied, the referees and the players went to the locker rooms. There was smoke in the hall due to the flammable materials. After a break of more than an hour, referees declared that they had postponed the game. Sedat Incesu, coach of Galatasaray Wheelchair Basketball Team stated that they are really sorry about the happenings and said, "If these things could happen even during the wheelchair basketball games, it makes no sense to talk about sports anymore.

## **EUROLEAGUE BASKETBALL MATCH BETWEEN GALATASARAY AND KK CRVENA ZVEZDA (22.11.2014)**

According to the information obtained, the fuss occurred around 21:00 at the entrance No.1 of Abdi İpekci Sports Hall. During the events, a group of Serbian fans started to argue amongst each other. During the argument that turned into a fight, a Serbian fan attacked the others with a knife. A Serbian fan who was stabbed under his heart was severely injured, and an ambulance took him to Bakırköy Dr. Sadi Konut Public Hospital. Morko Ivkovic couldn't be saved after five hours of surgery and lost his life. It was indicated that the Serbian fan lost his life during the fight among the Serbians and that the fight had nothing to do with the fans of Galatasaray.

## **BASKETBALL MATCH BETWEEN MEDICAL PARK TRABZONSPOR AND DEMİR İNSAAT BÜYÜKCEKMECE (24.10.2015)**

Following to the Spor Toto Basketball League match played between Medical Park Trabzonspor and Demir İnfaat Buyukcekmece, the referee Zafer Yilmaz was attacked. After Demir İnfaat Büyükcekmece won the match 73-69, one person jumped onto the field, followed the referees into the corridor, punched Zafer Yilmaz and fled. The security cameras in the hall couldn't capture the attacker, and the incident is under investigation.

Examination of previous incidents in Turkish sport is obvious proof of the need to conduct a project like “Fans Against Violence”.

# 4a. FACT FINDING CONFERENCE I

## Presentation of the key findings

Within the scope of FAV project, a conference has been organized at Abdi İpekçi Sports Hall Press Conference Room on July 23, 2015. During this conference, a situation analysis of Turkish basketball leagues was made and the opinions of different authorities under the basketball community were taken on the issue of preventing violence.

A group of 20 persons, comprised of the leading authorities in terms of basketball in Turkey, joined the conference.

## Participants of the FFC I



Alp Berker	TSM Istanbul Sports Director
Ayhan Ozgumus	TBF Director of Leagues
Barbaros Tali	Press Member
Bulut Yalcin	Basketball Super League Police Captain
Bülend Karpata	TUBAD General Coordinator
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cengiz Karagozoglu	Sport Psychologist / Lecturer at Marmara University
Elhan Gunay	Basketball Super League Police Captain
Ekrem Memnun	Head Coach of National Women's Basketball Team
Esat Yilmaer	AIPS Deputy Chairman
Gokhan Ture	Basketball Journalist
Kadir Dolcek	Head of Sports Security Branch Office
Kemal Tunceri	Former Basketball Player / President of Basketball Players Association
Kursad Uyumaz	Member of Prestige Defence Executive Board
Mehmet Ali Akbas	TBF Director of Facilities
Murat Biricik	BSL / FIBA Referee
Murak Konuk	General Manager of Bursaspor Basketball Team
Necati Güler	Former National Team Player / TBF Director of Youth
Mihriban Oguz	Former National Team Player/ Director of GS Women's Basketball Team
Nevriye Yilmaz	National Team Basketball Player
Asst. Prof. Dr. Umit Kesim	Lecturer at Istanbul Bilgi University

## General Course of Events



At the beginning of the conference; Emir Turam, TBF Director of Projects informed the participants about the aim and course of FAV project and the conference.

Afterwards, participants shortly presented themselves, and Volkan Muderrisoglu, project coordinator, informed the participants of details on the methods to conduct the conference.



Tuvana Tınaz, Project Coordinator, made a detailed presentation explaining the FAV project.

After the presentation, participants started to find answers for the research questions asked to them and to express them.

## Methodology

Participants were divided into groups of 4 people and 6 discussion questions were asked.

Participants discussed among the groups for 10 minutes for each question and expressed their opinions.

TBF officers, one of whom was assigned to each group, took notes on the discussions.



At the end of 10 minutes, a representative from each group shared their main points of discussions.

These sharings were consistently taken as notes by Seda Ozturk, project advisor and stuck on the board in the conference room.



## Research Questions

1. How would you define fan violence?
2. What are the main reasons for these events?
3. What kind of collaboration exists between relevant stakeholders regarding the prevention of violence? How can it be improved?
4. What are the strengths and weaknesses of activities to be carried out during the project?
5. How can we design fan platforms which aim to gather fans and stakeholders?
6. What are your ideas to improve the project?
7. How can you contribute as an individual/institution?



## Data Collection and Analyses

- The conference was recorded as a video from the beginning till the end.
- A TBF officer assigned to each table took notes at all times.
- The words of group representatives were also taken as notes and put on the note board.
- All the data and content obtained were encoded and analyzed, grouped and interpreted.

# Findings



## What can be done to prevent violence?



## What can be done to reach all the fans?

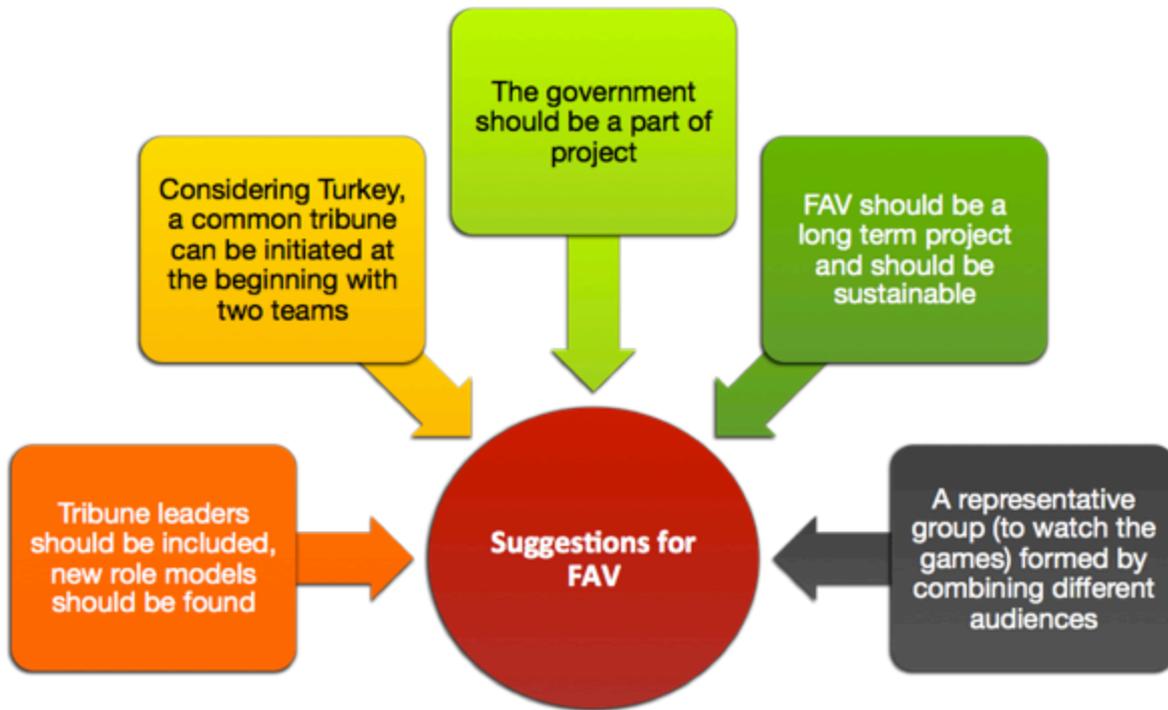


## What can be done to reach all the fans?



## Applications That May Encourage Positive Behaviour





## Fact Finding Conference I

23.09.2015 – Istanbul



# 4b. FACT FINDING CONFERENCE II

## Presentation of the key findings

Within the scope of FAV project, another conference has been organized at the Polat Renaissance Hotel on 4 August 2015 before the BSL draw. A group of 28 persons including the general managers of teams and members of press participated in the conference.



Within the scope of FAV project, another conference has been organized at the Polat Renaissance Hotel on 4 August 2015 before the BSL draw. A group of 28 persons including the general managers of teams and members of press participated in the conference.



## General Course of Events

Tuvana Tinaz, Coordinator of FAV Project made a presentation explaining the project in detail to the participants.

After the presentation, the ideas and suggestions of the general managers of teams were taken.

## Participants of the FFC II

Alper Yilmaz	Anadolu Efes
Rutkay Ozlu	Anadolu Efes
Turgay Cataloluk	Banvit
Turgay Zeytingoz	Banvit
Cengiz Ücyurek	Besiktas
Murat Murtezaoglu	Besiktas
Ahmet Eran	Darussafaka Dogus
Ahmet Bayraktar	Demir Insaat Buyukcekmece
Engin Berk	Demir Insaat Buyukcekmece
Osman Yesilgul	Demir Insaat Buyukcekmece
Serdar Caglan	Demir Insaat Buyukcekmece
Berna Nuri Suer	Demir Insaat Buyukcekmece
Cenk Renda	Fenerbahce
Omer Onan	Fenerbahce
Omer Yalcinkaya	Galatasaray
Cem Civan	Galatasaray
Yavuz Selim Tuncer	Istanbul B.B.S.K.
Aycan Sarli	Istanbul B.B.S.K.
Selim Cinar	Pınar Karsiyaka
Tunc Girgin	Ronesans TED Ankara Kolejliler
Boray Dai	Royal Halı Gaziantep
Yasar Berber	Torku Konya
Nihat Mala	Trabzonspor Medicalpark
Cengiz Yelken	Türk Telekom
Fatihhan Erdogan	Usak Sportif
Ertan Yilmaz	Yesilgiresun Belediye
Sukran Albayrak	Lig TV
Ismail Senol	NTV Spor

# 5. FAN SURVEYS

## Presentation of the key findings

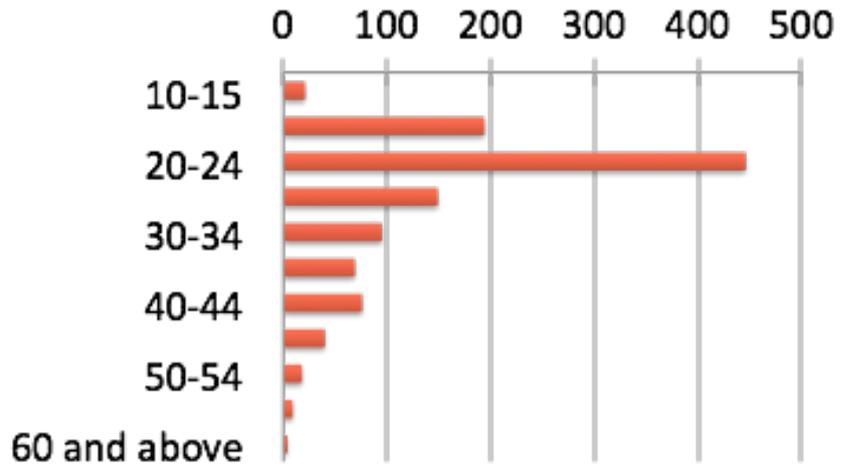
Within the scope of FAV project, fan surveys were conducted during the 2015 play-off games (20.05.2015 – 20.06.2015 / Istanbul) of the Turkish Basketball League. A total of 1124 surveys were conducted during 11 distinct games, representing 7 different teams.

Survey data were coded, entered and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

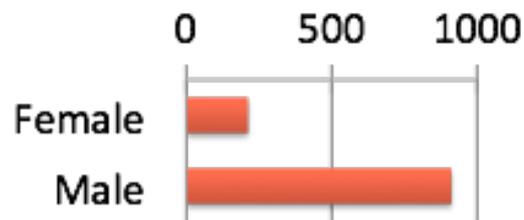


# Findings

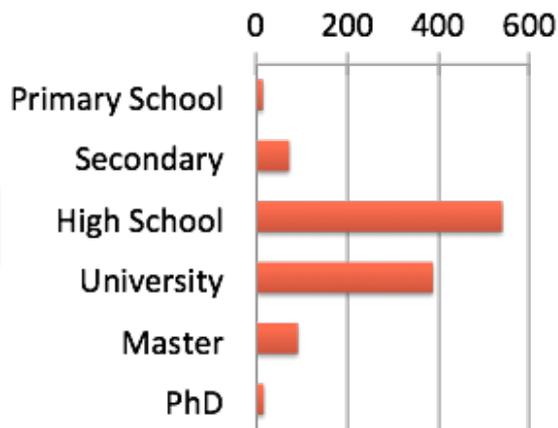
## Age



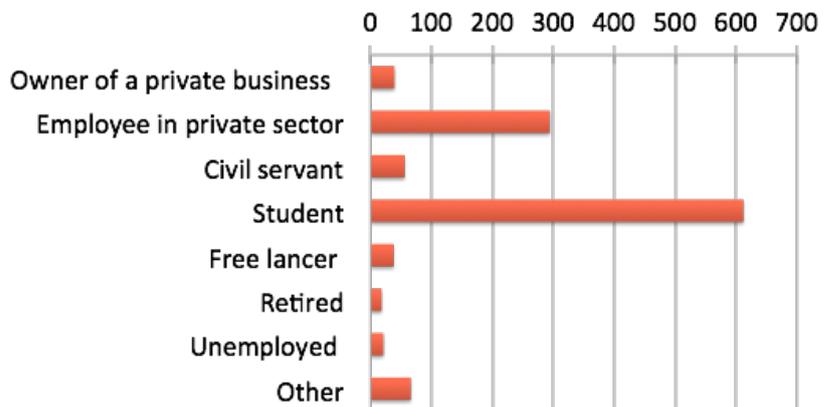
## Gender



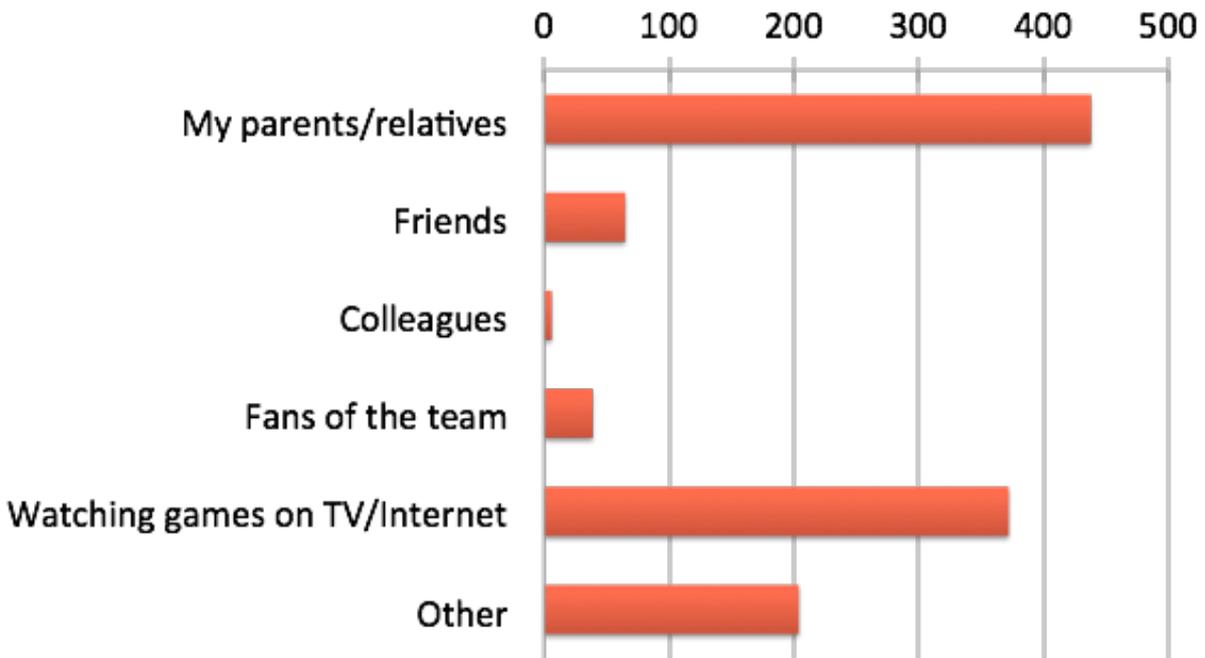
## Educational Status



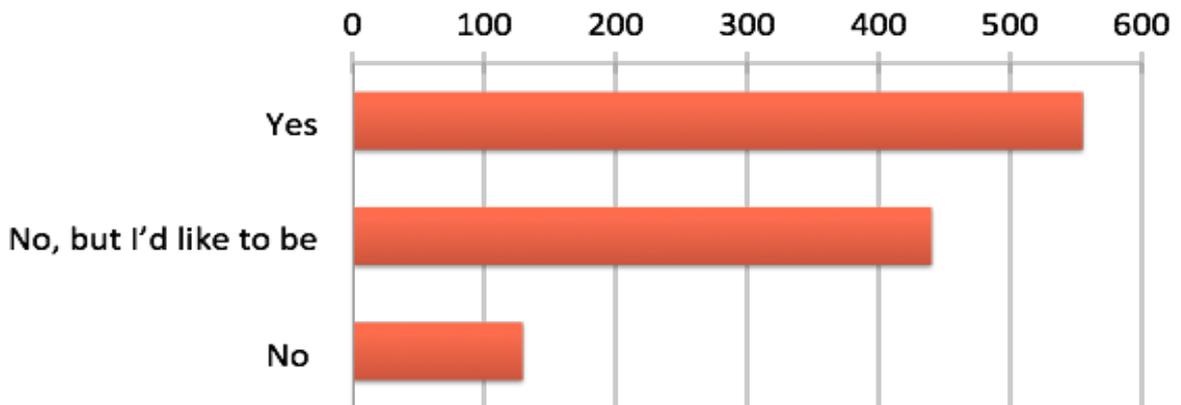
## Job Status



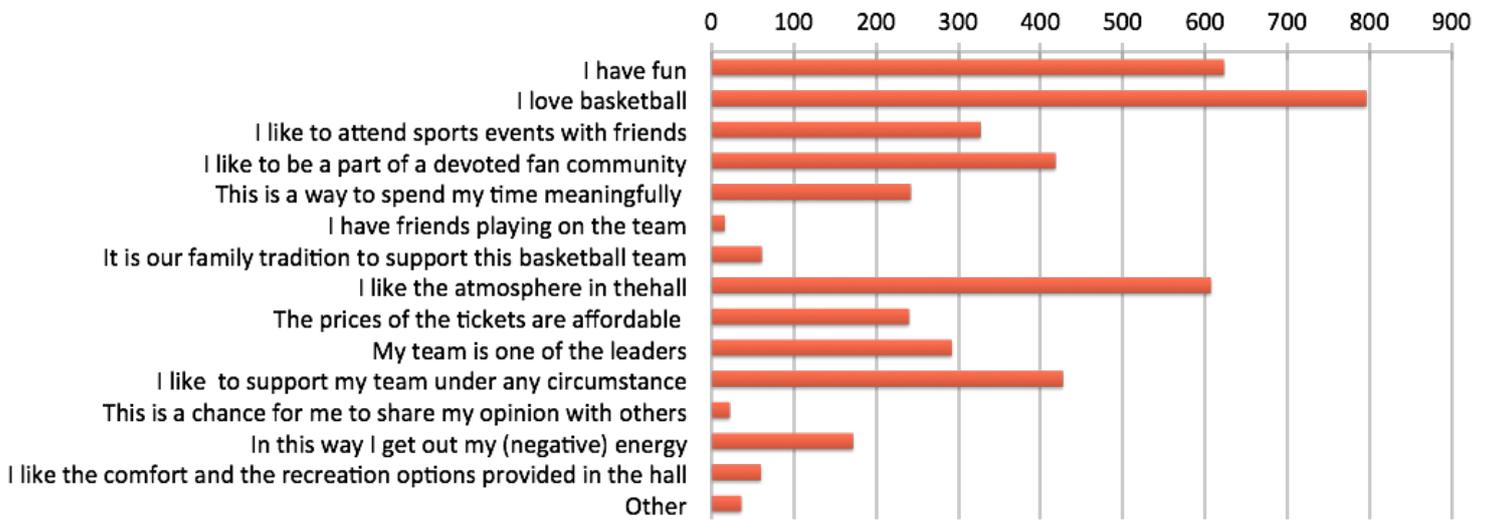
**Who/what had the decisive role for you to become a fan of your club?**



**Are you a member of your teams' fan club?**



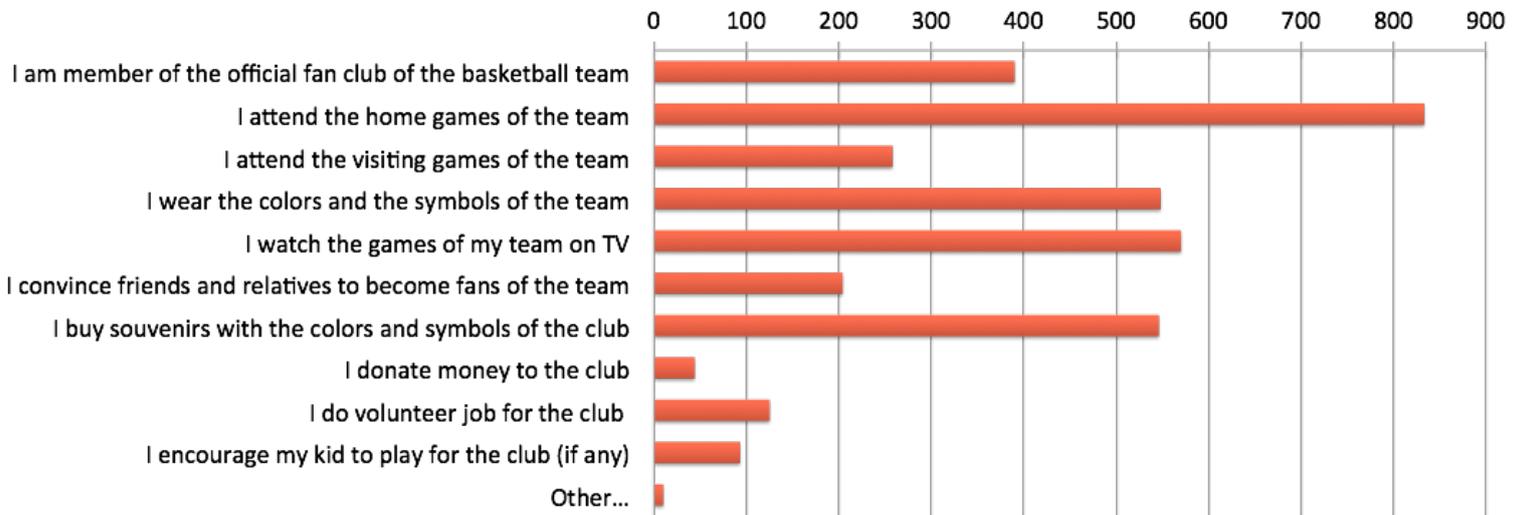
## I go to basketball games because...



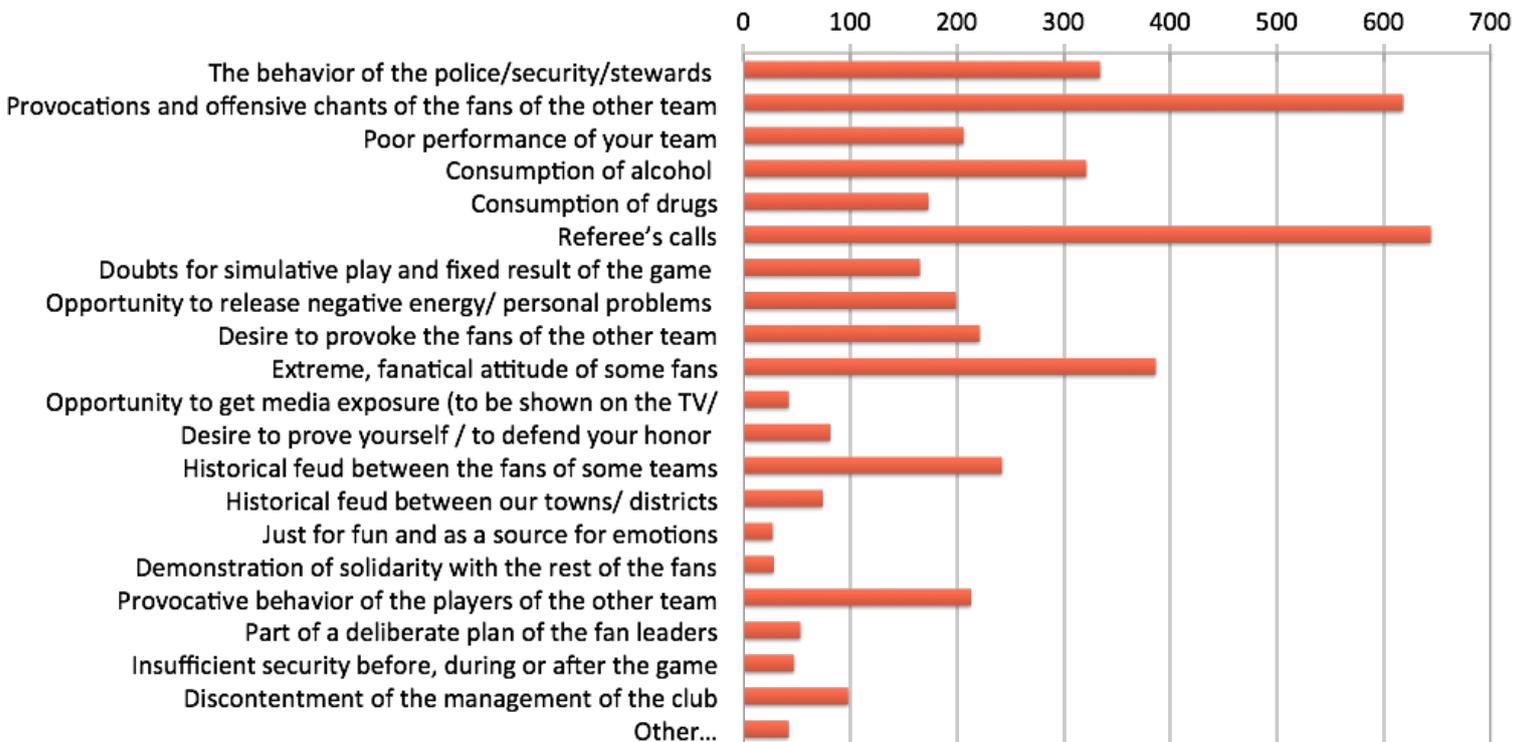
## Benefits of being fan of the team...



## The way I support my team is ...



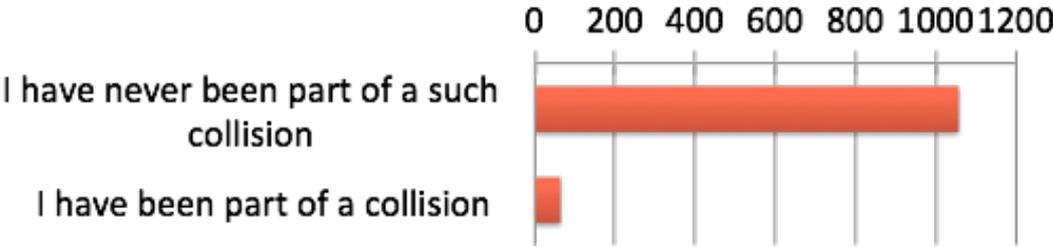
## Most common reasons for aggressive and violent behavior of the fans during the basketball games



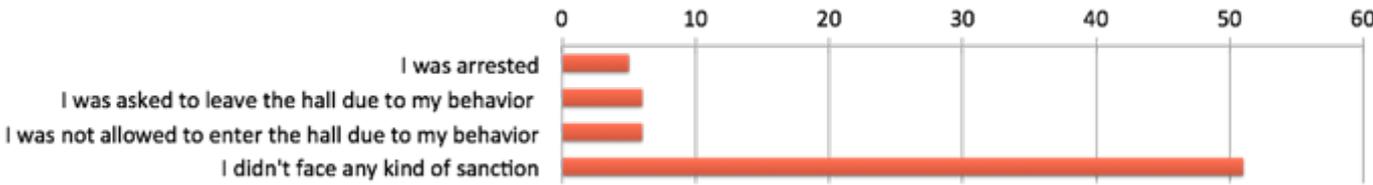
## The level of your confidence on...

	I have full confidence	I have some confidence	I don't have any feelings about the issue	I have little confidence	I have no confidence
Family	890	196	28	4	3
Friends	340	642	118	13	8
Government	80	202	348	233	258
Police	94	217	310	217	283
Federation/league	117	360	453	102	89
The team I support	539	476	91	10	5
Legal system	57	220	451	240	153
Laws	67	294	398	218	144
Political parties	24	55	384	312	346
Media	26	85	456	307	247

## Have you ever been part of a collision with the police or with fans of the opposing team?



## What happened as a result of your behaviour? (answered by only the people who have been part of a collision)



# 6. IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS

## Presentation of the key findings

Within the scope of Fans Against Violence Projects' research phase, 10 consecutive in-depth interviews were made with different stakeholders of professional basketball including national players, national trainers, referees, fan leaders of leading sport clubs and managers.



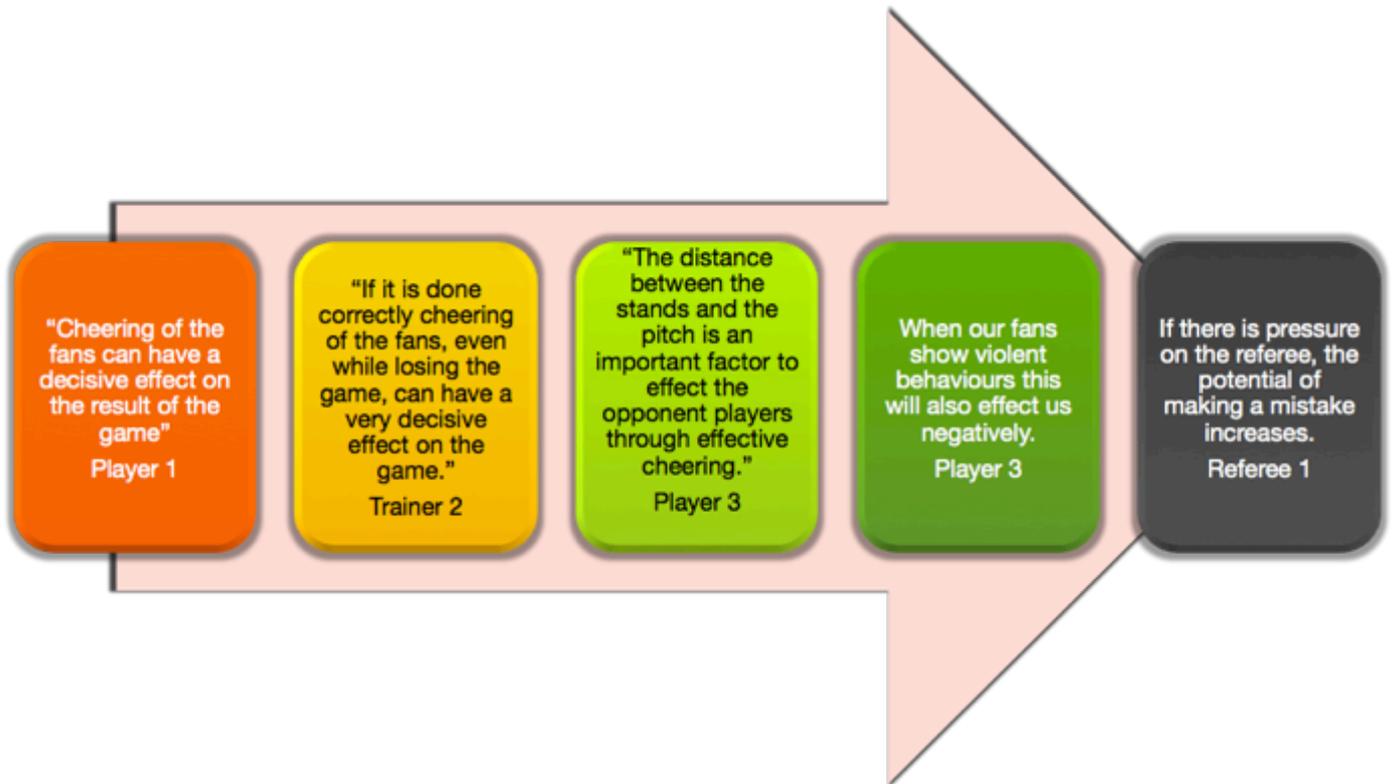
## Methodology

A total of 10 questions were asked to the respondents including what they think about the effects of dominant cheering, the reasons for violence in sports and suggestions for possible solutions.

Each interview was recorded and later transcribed. Data generated from the interviews were content analyzed, and the results were examined and then summarized.

One important factor that affects the credibility of in-depth interviews is the profile of the respondents. In order to obtain credibility and validity for this quantitative research method, we only questioned the highest representatives: 3 national players (incl. one NBA player), 2 national trainers, 2 fan leaders for teams that represent Turkey in the Euroleague, one referee with an international license and 2 team managers.

**The Effects that Dominant Cheering and Violent Behaviour of the Fans can create**





## Initiatives for Decreasing Violence Among the Fans



# 7. CONCLUSIONS

## **Examination and explanation of the important findings revealed by the study**

The research conducted under the scope of the Fans Against Violence project enabled us to gain various insights about the history of Turkish basketball, the state of violence in Turkish basketball, the profile of Turkish basketball fans and their behaviours, the reasons for violence in Turkish basketball and possible solutions.

We believe that this report provides a comprehensive understanding about the issues and their creators in Turkish basketball spectatorship. The aim of the conclusion section is to sum up the phases of the research and outline the important findings.

**Section one**, the first step of the research was to gain an understanding about the current state of Turkish Basketball. In order to achieve the mentioned goal, different sources were used. The publications written about Turkish basketball, the archives of Turkish Basketball Federation and online sources for getting the latest updates were used. The research indicates that basketball is one of the most and well-developed sport branches in Turkey. The well-established history of Turkish Basketball leads to the creation of a very well developed organisational structure. Different levels of leagues not only for men but also for women enlarge the scope and reach of the sport in Turkey. The success achieved in Turkish professional basketball makes the country one of the most successful in Europe.

**Section two**, the second step of the research was to gain deep knowledge about violent fan behaviour. Within the scope of this section, primarily academic publications were examined. Different definitions of “aggression” were provided. The aggressive actions of sport spectators were distinguished in two separate classes; hostile or instrumental. Compared to hostile aggression, in instrumental aggression spectator’s main goal might be to take advantage of their aggressive behaviours in terms of the affecting officials or players decision.

The theories referred in the second section which tend to explain the reasons of aggressive behaviour are Berkowitz’s Revised Frustration-Aggression Theory (1982), Bandura's (1973) Social Learning Theory and Smith's (1972) Frustration and Aggression and Social Identity Theory.

Lastly, the relationship between team identification and aggressive fan behaviour were examined.

**Section three** was vital in order to understand the current situation in terms of violence in basketball spectatorship. The research dealt with the violent occasions in Turkish basketball that occurred within the last 15 years. Our research reveal that there were a number of occasions happened during the basketball games. In order to understand general circumstance in Turkish sports, the research was not limited to basketball; we also searched football.

The research indicates that violence in sport is a serious matter in Turkish sport and threatens not only the future of sports but also its image and popularity. An interesting finding concerns the scope of violence; violence isn't a general problem of Turkish sport and doesn't involve a large number of teams. There are only a limited number of teams who are part of almost every occasion. Since these teams are competing in a number of sports like football, basketball, volleyball, violence spreads to these sports.

**Section four** consists of the very valuable information and ideas gained at the fact finding conference. The main aim in holding a fact finding conference was to bring various stakeholders of basketball together and enable them to discuss and brainstorm the issue violence in basketball.

This initiative enabled us to see the issue of violence from different perspectives. Through getting a deep understanding of the reasons for violence, a number of initiatives that can stimulate good behaviour among fans and decrease the level of violence in basketball were reached. The effectiveness of these initiatives depends heavily on the applicability and broad appropriation by different stakeholders.

There is general consensus that violence is harmful for every stakeholder. That is why preventing violence and playing appropriate roles should be every stakeholders' responsibility. The sport, particularly the stakeholders, should create a mechanism that automatically denounces inappropriate behaviour.

**Section five** showed the most important findings of the fan surveys. This study on profiling basketball fans and the state of violence was the most comprehensive study done in Turkey on basketball so far. There are a number of very interesting findings.

Most of the fans were male, students and youngsters who were between 20-24 years old. They love basketball, think that watching basketball is fun and enjoy the atmosphere in the basketball halls. Basketball fans are proud of being part of their team and they enjoy representing the values and beliefs of it. Surveyed fans are mostly frequent visitors who attend each home game. They are always buying merchandise materials of their teams.

Considering violent behaviour, according to fans, the calls of referees and the behaviour of the opponent teams fans are the main reasons for aggression. One very important and interesting finding is their level of confidence in different institutions, organisations and people. Basically, they do not

trust the government, police, media or even the legal system in the country. On the other hand, they trust their families, friends and, importantly, their teams, evidenced by their level of involvement.

**Section six** involves the main findings of the in-depth interviews conducted with national players, trainers, fan leaders and team managers and referees. By conducting in-depth interviews, we aimed to move one step further and get more information than we gained through the fact-finding conferences. During the face to face interviews, each lasting 30-50 minutes, a total of 12 questions were asked to the respondents.

Findings reveal that each type of violence has an obvious negative effect on the game played. It affects the playing condition of the players, the calls of the referees, and even the decisions of the trainers. One important finding is the lack of understanding among one other and, more importantly, the lack of communication among stakeholders.

One's negative behaviour (e.g. hostile commentary of a president) can create indignation and lead to violent behaviour of even his own fans. That is why platforms where different stakeholders can come together frequently should be provided. The stakeholders should be aware of the importance of their behaviour and act responsibly.



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