

PREDICTION MODEL OF THE YOUTH'S PREFERENCES REGARDING RACISM AT FOOTBALL MATCHES¹

Sasa Milojevic, PhD, Associate Professor²

Bojan Jankovic, PhD, Teaching Assistant

Goran Vuckovic, PhD, Associate Professor

Academy of Criminalistic and Police Studies, Belgrade, Serbia

Abstract: The paper presents a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the phenomenon of racism at football matches in Serbia. The statistic analyses relate to the youth aged 14 to 19. The paper proves that (1) a large part of the population of the young perceives the problem of racism at football matches, but without recognizing racist outburst, and (2) that male gender, membership in fan groups, and alcohol consumption are the common characteristics which, independently or in interaction, characterize a portion of Serbian population prone to racist behaviour. Moreover, the predictive model presented in this paper indicates that (1) there is a significant portion of population of the youth (less than 10%) prone to racist behaviour, as well as (2) the necessity of creating programmes for prevention of racism to be implemented in schools based on education of recognition and avoidance of racism.

Keywords: racism, perception, prediction, youth, football

INTRODUCTION

Hooliganism of some fans at football matches is the decades-long problem that many European countries are confronted with. Despite the efforts of European countries to combat this type of violence, it is still present to a greater or lesser extent in almost all countries and is manifested through various forms. The most common are the following three: the use of pyrotechnic devices, prearranged violence, and violence associated with alcohol abuse, or violence committed by persons intoxicated by alcohol.³ In the past three years, besides the listed, there has been a noticeable increase of another characteristic form of violent behaviour of fans or the occurrence of racist outbursts. This is shown in the latest annual report of the Standing Committee of the Council of Europe for implementation of the European convention on spectator violence and misbehaviour at sports events and in particular at football matches.⁴ The report shows that Romania, Russia and Great Britain are facing an increased number of racist incidents at football matches. France has submitted detailed data for the report related to racist incidents that have occurred in only one season, indicating that in the said country there is a serious problem with racism.⁵

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² **Corresponding author:** sasa.milojevic@kpa.edu.rs

³ Milojević, S., & Janković, B. (2012). *Police measures and actions in confronting football hooliganism in some European countries*. Paper presented at the Archibald Reiss Days, Belgrade, pp. 613.

⁴ Quidt, J. d. (2012). Annual Report of the Standing committee, part II - questionnaire on recent trends. Strasbourg: Council of Europe, Standing Committee (T-RV) – European Convention on Spectator Violence.

⁵ Ibid, pp. 6.

In the Netherlands there has been the widespread thesis that there is not a big problem with racism there; however, the research conducted by Müller shows that racist incidents are not so rare.⁶ Namely, the research was conducted in Amsterdam, using in-depth interviews with the most extreme white fans of the *Ajax* football club, and with the players of different origins. The research has shown that many players were insulted and humiliated on the basis of race, both by fans, and by teammates and opponents.

Since Great Britain, France and the Netherlands are states with mixed population and different races, it was perhaps to be expected that racism, as both sociological and a safety issue may occur in them. However, the problem of racism is present in the European countries where the population is almost exclusively white. Thus, in Russia, the problem of racism is expressed in everyday life, especially among the young population, and it is transferred to sports events or football matches.⁷ There is a similar problem in Italy as well, especially with both the fascist and racist behaviour of football fans.⁸ Racist outbursts in Ukraine are linked to fans of *Dynamo* Kiev, *Karpaty* Lviv and *Metalist* Kharkiv football clubs.⁹ A number of racist incidents at football matches have also been recorded in Germany. Three forms of racist behaviour have been identified: (1) racist and extreme right-wing behaviour of fans, at or close to sports facilities, (2) racist insults among players, and (3) a systematic and politically motivated right-wing extremist propaganda and agitation in the context of football.¹⁰

RACIST OUTBURSTS IN SERBIA

In the last 25 years in Serbia, there has been a problem with hooliganism at football matches. Members of fan groups in Serbia are very young people, as reported in the police reports, in which a typical perpetrator of crimes and offenses associated with violence at football matches in Belgrade is an adolescent of the average 16.23 years of age.¹¹ The fact that a large number of young people are involved in violence at football matches was confirmed in the survey in which a number of police officers of the Intervention Unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia were interviewed, the ones who secure sports events. Police officials declared that in 94% of cases the persons involved in the violence were aged 14 to 25, in 6% of cases they were aged 25 to 35.¹²

Although reports present no data on racism as the present problem in sports arenas, certain events in football stadiums indicate that the problem exists. On a larger scale, the issue of racism was raised for the first time after the football match played by Serbia's Under 21 team versus England's Under 21 team. Namely, on 16 October 2012, after the end of the game, there was a physical confrontation between players of both national teams, but also racist chants from the crowd on the stands addressed to English players with dark complexion when the home fans imitated the cries of monkeys. The UEFA opened the disciplinary proceedings and imposed penalties against players who participated in the conflict and the organizer of the

6 Müller, F. (2009). *Communicating Anti, Racism*. (doctorate Dissertation), University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam.

7 Watson, M. R. (2013). The Dark Heart of Eastern Europe: Applying the British Model to Football-Related Violence and Racism. *Emory International Law Review*, 27(2), pp. 1066.

8 Scalia, V. (2009). Just a Few Rogues?: Football Ultras, Clubs and Politics in Contemporary Italy. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 44(1), pp. 49.

9 Klymenko, P. (2013). *The Politics of Football: Radical Nationalism and Discrimination in the European Football. Case Study: Ukraine*. (Master master thesis), Vienna, pp. 65.

10 Peucker, M. (2009). Racism, xenophobia and structural discrimination in sports: Country report Germany. Bamberg: European forum for migration studies (EFMS), pp. 16.

11 Otašević, B. (2010). Urban Environment and Violence in Sport. *Bezbednost*, 52(3), pp. 271.

12 Janković, B. (2010). Prevention of Violence at Sports Events. *Herald of Law*, 1(3), pp. 138.

match, the Football Association of Serbia. It was the first punishment for Serbia associated with racist behaviour at a football match.

Accordingly, this paper aims to answer the following questions: (1) whether the young population in Serbia perceives the problem of racism at football matches, and (2) whether there are common characteristics that, independently or in interaction, characterize young people prone to racist behaviour. By answering these questions, the problem of racism would be identified at an early stage of formation and its intensity would be determined for the timely action in various prevention programmes.

METHODS

In order to obtain data on participation of the youth in violence at football matches and their relation to hooliganism of fans, and - in that context - on the perception of young people about the problem of racism in football, a questionnaire was designed, comprising 42 questions, 18 of which relating to the issue of racism. The constructed measuring instrument was, to a greater extent, of the closed type, with a possibility to choose several of multiple choice answers, while for one question the only possibility was to give an open (free) response, and in 11 questions given to respondents, there was a possibility to give an open (free) response within the available closed responses. The completion of the questionnaire was anonymous.

The collected data were analysed using statistical analysis methods as follows: procedures that show descriptive parameters (frequency and percentage), χ^2 test of independence which determined statistically significant differences between the groups being compared or determined a statistically significant relationship between individual responses, as well as the direct binary logistic regression to test the validity of the prediction model.

SAMPLE

Data on racism and the young at football matches were collected on a sample that included high school students aged 14 to 19 from the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Respondents were from 12 cities which had first division football clubs in the 2012/2013 season, namely from two schools closest to the football stadium in each city. Students were surveyed in schools; they were from two classes of all four grades. Based on these criteria, 3662 students were surveyed. If we take into account that, according to data from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, there were 280,422 students of that age at the beginning of the school year 2012/2013, the sample comprised 1.3% of the analysed population.¹³ Bearing in mind that it was a stratified sample, its size fully represented the target population of school students aged 14 to 19.

The sample included 55.3% of male respondents. A quarter of respondents (actually 25.3%) participated in some kind of conflict because of sports. The sample comprised 14.7% of members of organized fan groups. A large number of respondents consumed alcohol (69.0%), a significant number abused drugs (9.6%); 27.3% of respondents had an unfavourable attitude towards the police, while 27.5% of them had a favourable attitude. Because of sport-related violence, 5.5% of the respondents were apprehended for violence related to sports events, 3.7% of them were filed civil charges, and 3.1% criminal charges by the police.

¹³ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (2013). Upper Secondary Education in the Republic of Serbia, Beginning of 2012/2013 School year, pp. 28.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data collected during the survey are consistent with the findings presented in the last annual report of the Standing Committee of the Council of Europe for the implementation of the European convention on spectator violence and misbehaviour at sports events. Namely, a relatively small percentage of respondents (1.7%) insulted opponents at football matches because of religion, skin colour or other differences. However, the perception of young people about the existence of racism at football matches in Serbia is largely different.

THE YOUTH'S PERCEPTION OF RACISM AT FOOTBALL MATCHES

A certain number of respondents (10.2%) believe that at football matches in Serbia there is no problem with racism, but that is an invention by foreign media. 19.3% of respondents believes that there is no racism at football matches. A significant number of respondents were indecisive or declared not to know whether there was a problem of racism at football matches. The greatest number of respondents – 35.4% believes that there is racism at matches, but to a small extent, while 26.7% of respondents believe that there is racism at football matches to a large extent. By analyzing these data, it is evident that a large number of respondents (62.1% cumulative), identifies racism as a problem that occurs at football matches in Serbia. Similar results were shown in the online survey conducted in England, which showed that 61% of spectators on football matches experienced racist behaviour or were present during such incidents in the period from 2000 to 2009,¹⁴ which is similar to data obtained in this study. The research conducted in Spain showed something similar,¹⁵ as its results indicated that in this country there is a problem of racism at football matches, although the official documents show the opposite. In this study, racist outbursts in football stadiums of the first and second Spanish football league during the seasons 2004/05 and 2005/06 were analysed. During the two seasons there were a total of 47 racist incidents. In addition to a significant number of registered incidents, a large number of people took part in the alleged incidents. Specifically, the survey results stated that eight incidents involved fewer than five people, there were 60 people in one, 150 in another, and there were two incidents involving between 500 and 1,000 people; in two of them there were between 2000 and 3000 people, in five cases there were several thousand people involved, while in five incidents the number of participants has not been determined.

The problem of racism in sport in Serbia came to public attention after the events in the football match of Under 21 teams of Serbia and England, played in October 2012. In contrast to the perceived problem of racism at football matches in general, young people perceived the event in Kruševac quite differently. Almost half of respondents (49.7%) were not familiar with the event that raised a lot of interest of the domestic and European public. 13.0% of respondents think that there was no racist behaviour of local fans, while there are 13.5% of respondents who believe there was no racist behaviour by local fans, but only the response to unsportsmanlike behaviour of individual players in England's national team. Thus, a larger portion of respondents (cumulatively) believes there were no racist outbursts. On the other hand, 10.4% of respondents believe there were racist insults by a very small number of local

14 Cleland, J., & Cashmore, E. (2013). Football fans' views of racism in British football. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 1-17. doi: 10.1177/1012690213506585, pp. 7.

15 Llopis-Goig, R. (2009). Racism and xenophobia in Spanish football: Facts, reactions and policies. *Physical Culture and Sport Studies and Research*, 47, 35-43.

fans aimed at dark complexion players of the England's national team, while 8.5% of respondents think that there were racist insults by a larger number of local fans. Bearing in mind that after conducting disciplinary proceedings, the UEFA confirmed that there was a racist outburst and penalized the Under 21 Serbian national team and its members, it is obvious that the perception of young people concerning the problem of racism is somehow distorted. On the one hand, they perceived the problem of racism at football matches in general, and on the other hand, in this particular case, they did not recognize the problem of racism.

CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUNG DISPLAYING RACIST ATTITUDES

Results of χ^2 tests showed statistically significant differences between characteristics of the young who display racist attitudes and those who do not. They started from the position that racist attitudes are displayed by those students who: (1) insulted opponents at a football match because of religion, colour or other differences; (2) believe that local fans did not display any racist behaviour at the football match in Kruševac between Under 21 national teams of Serbia and England and (3) believe that there is no racist behaviour on football matches in Serbia.

Accordingly, the statistical analysis showed that racist insults are often hurled by male (87.1%), members of fan groups (45.2%), who were involved in conflicts because of sports (74.2%), who regularly consume alcohol (85.5%) and abuse drugs (37.1%). These respondents have more significantly expressed unfavourable attitude towards the police (39.1%). They were apprehended by the police more often (33.9%), they were more often filed civil (25.8%) and criminal charges (19.4%) (Table 1).

Table 1. χ^2 test characteristics of respondents – insulting opponents because of religion, skin colour or another difference.

Statistically significant difference	N	χ^2	Sig.	ϕ
Gender	3656	24.41	0.00	-0.11
Fan group membership	3662	44.13	0.00	-0.15
Attitude towards the police	3604	45.57	0.00	0.11
Participation in conflicts because of sport	3662	77.24	0.00	-0.15
Alcohol consumption	3662	7.27	0.00	-0.05
Drug abuse	3662	51.66	0.00	-0.12
Apprehension because of violence in connection with sport	3602	96.20	0.00	-0.17
Civil charge filed because of violence in connection with sport	3612	83.85	0.00	-0.16
Criminal charge filed because of violence in connection with sport	3593	56.53	0.00	-0.13

Male (71.3%) members of fan groups (22.4%) who were involved in conflicts because of sports (32.7%) (cumulatively) believe that there is no racism at football matches. They more often have an unfavourable attitude towards the police (31.8%). They frequently abuse drugs (12.2%), they are more often apprehended by the police for violence at sports events (8.6%), they were filed more civil (6.4%) and criminal charges (5.1%) because of violence at matches (Table 2).

Table 2. χ^2 test characteristics of respondents – perception of problems with racism at matches.

Statistically significant difference	N	χ^2	Sig.	ϕ
Gender	3496	160.51	0.00	0.21
Fan group membership	3502	78.01	0.00	0.15
Attitude towards the police	3475	21.89	0.00	0.06
Participation in conflicts because of sport	3502	55.30	0.00	0.13
Drug abuse	3502	20.70	0.00	0.08
Apprehension because of violence in connection with sport	3479	25.61	0.00	0.09
Civil charge filed because of violence in connection with sport	3488	27.58	0.00	0.09
Criminal charge filed because of violence in connection with sport	3470	18.82	0.00	0.07

Male (40.3%) members of a fan group (23.6%) believe that there were no racist outbursts in Kruševac. They tend to have an unfavourable attitude towards the police (34.6%). Those respondents more often consume alcohol (30.3%) and abuse drugs (40.3%). They often had conflicts because of sport (43.1%), the police have often apprehended them because of conflict in matches (55.6%), they have more often been filed civil (53.8%) and criminal charges (57.8%) (Table 3).

Table 3. χ^2 test characteristics of respondents – whether there were racist outbursts at the Under 21 match of national teams of Serbia and England.

Statistically significant difference	N	χ^2	Sig.	ϕ
Gender	3479	523.65	0.00	0.39
Fan group membership	3485	199.61	0.00	0.24
Attitude towards the police	3461	45.00	0.00	0.08
Participation in conflicts because of sport	3485	245.12	0.00	0.27
Alcohol consumption	3485	22.81	0.00	0.08
Drug abuse	3485	45.24	0.00	0.11
Apprehension because of violence in connection with sport	3470	128.930	0.00	0.19
Civil charge filed because of violence in connection with sport	3470	77.98	0.00	0.15
Criminal charge filed because of violence in connection with sport	3451	72.88	0.00	0.15

Previous analyses indicated that the characteristics of respondents who believe there were no racist outbursts in Kruševac are very similar to characteristics of respondents who believe that Serbia has no problem with racism, or the characteristics of respondents who have shown racist behaviour.

PREDICTIVE MODEL OF PREFERENCES OF YOUNG TOWARDS RACISM

Conducted analyses have imposed several important conclusions. Namely, out of the total number of respondents who answered that they had insulted opponents on racist grounds at a football match, 66.0% believe that in the game Under 21 teams of Serbia and England in

Kruševac there were no racist incidents of domestic fans, and 80.6% believe that Serbia has no problem with racism. χ^2 test between these three characteristics of the respondents indicates a significant association that can be estimated as mean in a statistical sense¹⁶ (Cohen, 1988) ($\chi^2(1, n=1629) = 242.988, p = 0.000$ (with correction according to Yeats), whereby the coefficient is $fi = 0.387$).

On the basis of this result, and relying on facts that (1) the event in Kruševac was rated as the racist outburst by the international body, (2) together with deciderous statements of a part of respondents that they had participated in racist behaviour at football matches – it can be concluded that the population which does not perceive the problem of racism in Serbia represents a part of the youth who could potentially participate in a racist incident. This is primarily due to the fact that a part of the population does not adequately perceive racism or anti-social and delinquent behaviour motivated by racism. This is the reason why it is important to identify characteristics of the youth population who could potentially participate in racist incidents. Identification of these characteristics was carried out in four steps.

First, the direct binary logistic regression was used to assess the impact of multiple characteristics of young people in Serbia on the probability that respondents would answer that there is no problem with racism in Serbia. The model comprised nine characteristics derived in previous analyses (χ^2 test) that may be of importance as predictors of the model (gender, attitude towards the police, alcohol consumption, drug abuse, membership in fan groups, conflicts because of sport, apprehension because of violence at sports events, civil or criminal charges filed). The whole model (with all predictors) was statistically significant, $\chi^2(9, n=1852) = 137,112, p = 0.000$, indicating that the model distinguishes respondents who answered and those who did not answer whether there was a problem with racism in Serbia. The model as a whole explains between 7.10% (r^2 Cox-Snell) and 10.0% (r^2 Nagelkerke) variance in respondents' attitudes towards racism in Serbia and accurately classifies 69.8% of cases. As shown in Table 4, four characteristics (predictors) provided a unique statistically significant contribution to the model (gender, alcohol consumption, drug abuse, and membership in fan groups). The strongest predictor of the view that there is no problem with racism in Serbia was gender with the ratio of probability of 2.27. This shows that male respondents are twice more likely to believe that there is no problem with racism in Serbia, with all other factors in the model being equal. The quotient of probability for alcohol consumption is 0.78, which is lower than 1, indicating that respondents who do not consume alcohol are 0.78 times less likely to respond that there is no problem with racism in Serbia, with all other factors in the model being equal.

Table 4. *Model of prediction of the attitude that there is no problem with racism in Serbia.*

Characteristics (predictor)	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp-p(B)	95% C.I. for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
Gender	0.82	0.11	52.02	1	0.00	2.27	1.82	2.82
Alcohol consumption	-0.24	0.12	4.38	1	0.04	0.78	0.62	0.96
Drug abuse	0.51	0.18	8.44	1	0.00	1.67	1.18	2.35
Membership in fan groups	0.53	0.15	12.81	1	0.00	1.67	1.27	2.27

In the second step, the direct binary logistic regression was used to assess the influence of the same characteristics of the youth in Serbia on probability that respondents would answer

¹⁶ Cohen, J. (1988). *Statistical power analysis for the behavioral sciences (2nd edn.)*. Hillsdale, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

that there were no racist outbursts by local fans during Under 21 football match of national teams of Serbia and England in Kruševac. The model was the same as in the previous analysis. The whole model (with all predictors) was statistically significant, $\chi^2(9, n = 939) = 38.912$, $p = 0.000$, explaining between 4.10% and 5.5% of the variance, and accurately classifying 60.2% of cases. As shown in Table 5, three characteristics (predictors) provided a unique statistically significant contribution to the model (gender, alcohol consumption, and membership in fan groups). The strongest predictor of the view that there were no racist outbursts by local fans during Under 21 football match of national teams of Serbia and England in Kruševac was alcohol consumption with the ratio of probability of 1.71.

Table 5. *Model of prediction of the attitude that there were no racist outbursts during the match between Under 21 teams of Serbia and England.*

Characteristics (predictor)	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp-p(B)	95% C.I. for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
Gender	0.39	0.16	5.94	1	0.02	1.48	1.08	2.02
Alcohol consumption	0.54	0.16	11.93	1	0.00	1.71	1.26	2.32
Membership in fan groups	0.53	0.18	8.99	1	0.00	1.7	1.2	2.41

In the next step, the identical method was used to assess the impact of the same characteristics of young people in Serbia on probability that respondents insulted opponents at football matches because of religion, skin colour or another difference. The model was the same as in the previous two analyses. The whole model (with all predictors) was statistically significant, $\chi^2(9, n=1974) = 61.007$, $p = 0.000$ explaining between 3.0% (r^2 Cox-Snell) and 18.3% (r^2 Nagelkerke) variance, classifying accurately 78.2% of cases. As shown in Table 6, four characteristics (predictors) provided a unique statistically significant contribution to the model (gender, alcohol consumption, membership in fan groups, and participation in conflict because of sport). The strongest predictor of respondents' participation in insulting opponents on racist grounds was participation in conflicts because of sports with the ratio of probability of 3.97.

Table 6. *Model of prediction of respondents' participation in racist insulting the opponents.*

Characteristics (predictor)	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I. for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
Gender	0.88	0.52	2.91	1	0.04	2.42	0.88	3.68
Alcohol consumption	0.11	0.48	0.06	1	0.01	1.12	0.44	2.87
Membership in fan groups	0.19	0.4	0.23	1	0.03	1.21	0.55	2.66
Conflicts because of sport	1.38	0.48	8.38	1	0.00	3.97	1.56	5.1

Preliminary analysis of the direct binary logistic regression showed that male gender, alcohol consumption, and membership in fan groups are common predictors for all three dependent variables – that the respondent would have the attitude that there is no problem of racism in Serbia, that there were no racist outbursts by local fans during Under 21 football match of the national teams of Serbia and England in Kruševac and that the respondent participated in insulting opponents at football matches because of religion, colour or other differences.

Accordingly, the fourth and final step of identifying characteristics of the youth popula-

tion that could potentially participate in racist incidents included the analysis using the direct binary logistic regression for the model in which predictors are the mentioned three characteristics of the youth in Serbia (Table 7).

Table 7. *Models of prediction of dependent variables with three predictors.*

Dependent variable	Characteristics (predictor)	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Ex-p(B)	95% C.I. for EXP(B)	
								Lower	Upper
There are no problems with racism in Serbia	Gender	0.88	0.08	116.25	1	0.00	2.41	2.06	2.83
	Alcohol	-0.11	0.08	1.61	1	0.02	0.9	0.77	1.06
	Fan group	0.45	0.1	20.2	1	0.00	1.57	1.29	1.92
There were no racist outbursts during the match of Under 21 national teams	Gender	0.55	0.12	22.11	1	0.00	1.74	1.38	2.18
	Alcohol	0.33	0.11	8.83	1	0.00	1.39	1.12	1.73
	Fan group	0.44	0.13	12.11	1	0.00	1.55	1.21	1.99
Participation in racist outbursts	Gender	1.37	0.39	12.26	1	0.00	3.94	1.83	8.48
	Alcohol	0.86	0.37	5.55	1	0.02	2.36	1.16	4.82
	Fan group	1.23	0.27	20.95	1	0.00	3.41	2.02	5.76

It is obvious that the model which comprises three characteristics of youth – gender, alcohol consumption, and membership in fan groups predicts with a high probability (75.4%) that the respondent's attitude will be that Serbia has no problem with racism, that during the aforementioned Under 21 football match there were no racist outbursts, and that he will make racist insults aimed at opponents during a football match. The strongest predictor was gender, on the basis of which it can be concluded that the young male population belong to the minor potential holders of racist outbursts. This is followed by membership in the fan group, and finally alcohol consumption.

Previous analyses allow us to conclude with a high degree of reliability that young male alcohol consumers who are members fan groups represent the population that can potentially participate in racist outbursts. These findings are consistent with the previous studies by which men are much more likely to participate in racist behaviour,¹⁷ and that racist incidents often have a background in situational factors – the effect of alcohol, together with the influence of “mass psychology” deriving from the membership in the club support group, at which the philosophy of the fan group that gathers the supporters sometimes has a racist point of view (Arishita, 2010).¹⁸

This study points to a very significant connection between all three characteristics – male gender, membership in a fan group and alcohol consumption – with a very high probability of a racist outburst deriving from it. In the studied sample, which is fully representative for the high school population in Serbia, 9.42% of respondents have characteristics that put them into the group of potential participants in racist outbursts, which is a significant percentage of young people and consequently requires taking serious measures on a wider social level.

17 Sidanius, J., & Veniegas, R. C. (2000). Gender and race discrimination: The interactive nature of disadvantage. In S. Oskamp (Ed.), *Reducing Prejudice and Discrimination* (pp. 47-69). Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers.

18 Arishita, K. M. (2010). *Racism in soccer: Eliminating soccer racism and using sport as a vehicle for national change*. Texas A&M University.

CONCLUSION

Regardless of favourable reports of the Standing Committee of the Council of Europe for implementation of the European convention on spectator violence and misbehaviour at sports events, the incident in Kruševac in 2012 showed that there are racist outbursts at football matches in Serbia and that racism exists. The conducted survey showed that the percentage of respondents who participated in racist behaviour at football matches is relatively small, but also that the percentage of those who believe there were no racist outbursts in Kruševac, or that there is not a problem of racism in Serbia is relatively large.

Using statistical analysis, it is proved there is a significant relationship between respondents who have the attitude that in Serbia there is no problem with racism, those who believe there were no racist incidents in Kruševac and those involved in insulting opponents at football matches, that is, those who belong to population that participates or may potentially participate in racist behaviour. Initial statistical analyses indicated that these respondents have a number of common characteristics: they are male, they have an unfavourable attitude towards the police, consume alcohol and abuse drugs, they are members of fan groups, they had conflicts because of sport due to which they were apprehended by the police, they were filed civil and criminal charges.

These characteristics were used to create a predictive model which first proved that only three characteristics (gender, alcohol consumption, and membership in fan groups) really describe the respondents as the population prone to racism. The final statistical analysis has definitely proved that such respondents were precisely described with a high probability on the basis of these three characteristics.

Starting assumptions (1) that the young population in Serbia perceives the problem of racism at football matches, but in this particular case it does not recognize the racist outburst and (2) that the male gender, membership in fan groups and alcohol consumption are common characteristics that independently or in interaction characterize young people prone to racist behaviour have been proved. Moreover, the predictive model presented in this paper indicates that (1) there is a significant population of the youth in Serbia (less than 10%), which may be prone to racist behaviour and (2) it is necessary to create programmes for prevention of racism, that would be implemented by schools, primarily based on education how to recognize and avoid racist outbursts, which would, in the first place, involve young male consumers of alcohol and members of fan groups.

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