

Objective of the project

The project concerns the issue of fans' perception of club football rivalries in Visegrad Group countries (Poland, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary). The main objective of the project is to identify and analyse that socio-political and cultural phenomenon and create a heat-map of club football rivalries between football supporters in Central-Eastern Europe based on their opinions.

The main objective of the proposed research is to analyse how football fans perceive the essence of their relation with their rivals and how they prioritise them, as well as to understand their motives and deeper socio-political and cultural factors that underpin such rivalries.

Description of the research to be carried out

The data will be obtained through the largest ever quantitative and qualitative study on football fans in Europe. The research will consist of two subsequent components: qualitative (series of ca. 20 In-Depth Interviews with devoted fans from Poland, Czechia, Slovakia and Hungary) and quantitative (Computer-Assisted Web Interviews attempted to reach an estimated number of 100 000 fans from Central-Eastern Europe). Results of the first component will help in drafting a proper survey form for the quantitative component, which will answer the key research questions of the project. The results of both quantitative and qualitative research will be complementary and will enable better understanding of the role of socio-political and cultural factors that strengthen club football rivalries.

Reasons for choosing the research topic

The issue of perception of rivalries in European club football has not been academically investigated on this scale before. Expected impact of the research project will help to develop scientific approach towards phenomena directly affected by football rivalries: fan and media attention and demand, level of enjoyment of football consumption, fan engagement and various forms of unethical behaviour and public disorder (violence and hooliganism, hate speech, racism, homo/xenophobia).