



UNIRI



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Centar za sport  
Center for Sport



*University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law  
Institute of Sports Law, Sports Policies and Sports Diplomacy  
&  
University of Rijeka, Centre for Sport*

*Under the auspices of*



*In partnership with*



**Organise**

**Event**

**Football and Sports Diplomacy  
Towards the FIFA 2026 World Cup**

*9th Rijeka Sports Law, Sports Policies and Sports Diplomacy Day (2nd part)*

**June 11, 2026 (UN international day of play)**

*University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law – Room II*

**Hahlić 6, HR-51000 Rijeka, Croatia**



**Funded by the  
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PRIMORJE-GORSKI  
KOTAR COUNTY  
EUROPEAN REGION  
OF SPORT 2026



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## PROGRAM

12:00 – 12:20

Introductory speeches

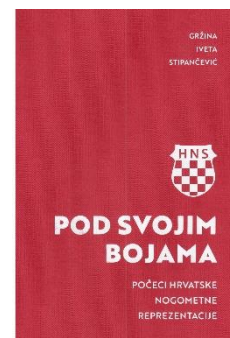


**FIFA WORLD CUP 2026**  
JUNE 11 - JULY 19 CANADA | MEXICO | USA

- *Assoc. Prof. Vanja Smokvina (University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law, project head)*
- *Prof. dr. Dario Đerđa (University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law, Dean)*
- *Vladimir Iveta (Croatian Football Federation, Deputy Secretary General)*
- *Prof. dr. Goran Hauser (University of Rijeka, Rector)*
- *Iva Rinčić (City of Rijeka, Mayor)*
- *Ivica Lukanović (Primorje-Gorski kotar County, Prefect)*

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12:20 – 13:00 Presentation of book „Pod svojim bojama. Počeci hrvatske nogometne reprezentacije“  
(*Under its own colors. The beginnings of the Croatian national football team*)  
Authors:  *Hrvoje Gržina, Vladimir Iveta, Marijo Stipančević*



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13:00 – 14:00 Round table  
*From the first matches in 1990s, through England '96 EURO & FIFA 2002 World Cup to U.S. MLS and soccer*

*Saša Peršon, Elvis Brajković, Daniel Šarić & Damir Kreilach*

14:00 Conclusions and Lunch

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### ORGANISING AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE

*Assoc. Prof. Vanja Smokvina (University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law) & Vladimir Iveta (Croatian Football Federation, Deputy Secretary General)*

This conference is organised within the scope of the project „*NEMUS: (In)visible minorities in sports: promoting equality, inclusion, rights and equity*” (uniri-iz-25-113), funded by European Union – NextGenerationEU via the Croatian National Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2026, in conjunction with the University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law Programme Financing. The views and opinions expressed are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the European Commission can be held responsible for them.



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