



EU Work Plan
for Sport

2011-
2014

Expert Group "Education and Training in Sport"

**Proposal for Future EU Actions in the field of Education and Training
in Sport**

Deliverable 3

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Report drafted by the chair of XG



Future EU level work in the field of sport and education

1. Background

Based on the initiative of the Commission, the Council identified education as one of the priority themes for EU level cooperation in sport in its first EU Work Plan for Sport 2011 – 2014. Within this Plan the Expert Group “Education and Training in Sport” (XG ETS) had been tasked to submit three pieces of work, a proposal for European guidelines in the area of Dual Careers, a summary on the follow up to the inclusion of sport related qualifications in NQFs with reference to EQF and possible proposals in the field of sport and education for 2014-2020.

While this paper outlines possible areas of interest in agreeing proposals to meet the third task ‘Future EU level work in the field of sport and education’, it has to be noted that there is no guarantee that the Council will keep all same priorities and the same number of experts groups. Based on the evaluation of the first Workplan Sport and a political discussion on the challenges on a European level to be covered by a second Workplan, priorities will be chosen. It is our task to identify challenges in the field of Education and Training in Sport on a European level which should be addressed in the near future on a political level in the Council.

At our previous meeting in Dublin, a paper was tabled that identified a number of possible topics for consideration. It was therefore understandable that as with any large group presented with a significant number of options there was little commonality across MS initial indications of possible priorities. To create a framework and crystallise the upcoming discussions on possible future areas as Chair I am proposing the following process.

2. Process

The second EU work plan for sport offers opportunities to prioritise certain topics in the field of education which could lead to policy actions (report, recommendations, council conclusions). It is not yet decided what the life span of the next Workplan will be, but it could be expected that it will cover at least 3 years. We must consider the following before selecting areas to propose to the Council Working Group as possible priorities:

- The work already done in Dual Careers and NQF, and desire to continue the momentum of this work
- The potential of being able to complete and produce tangible results
- The impact of any specific area in terms of impact on MS and EU operation and policy

Once priorities have been identified, the resources and capability of both the council and the Commission will be taken in consideration and working methods will be developed either by the Working Party Sport of the Council and or Commission in supporting a number of different policy actions and deliverable. This discussion will not automatically lead to the installation of new Expert Groups, as the same deliverable could be produced by organizing seminars with specific experts in the field, a (ministerial) conference or by the Working Party itself. Taking these points into consideration, we should look for a demand driven approach with a maximum delivery of 3 projects on the council level. If the Work plan will have a life span of 6 years 4/5 pieces of work could be delivered.



3. Possible Future Areas of Work

Taking into consideration the previous points and our discussion at our last meeting as a starting point for discussion I believe the following would be an appropriate work programme for the XG ETS in the next cycle;

Follow up on the Guidelines on Dual Careers

Based on the European Guidelines and subsequent Council conclusions a number of follow up activities could be defined. In fact the Council Conclusion are referring to possible future actions in article 6.1.

"On the basis of the EU Guidelines on Dual Careers of Athletes, consider appropriate follow up in the framework of the second work plan on Sport of the Council, including looking at ways to measure the implementation of policy actions in the field of dual careers across the EU, which can be used by Member States on a voluntary basis ".

And also article 6.5 could function as inspiration:

"Support the development of a set of minimum quality requirements at European level in cooperation with stakeholders in this field, which could function as a reference point for national dual career services and facilities, providing transparency and guarantees on quality, safety and security for athletes, including athletes abroad."

Moreover actions could be proposed (not necessarily on the council level to bring the implementation of the conclusions further:

- Support the development of policy frameworks or national guidelines for dual careers of athletes on governmental level through regional peer meetings of interested MS (or open method of coordination)
- Development of a mobility scheme in the framework of dual careers for athletes and staff
- Accreditation system for European Education institutes for dual career athletes.

Exchange of good practice and experience on dual careers among Member States at local, regional and national level could be supported through the Sport chapter of the Erasmus for all programme.

Follow up inclusion sectorial qualifications in sport in NQF

Although the mid-report on the inclusion of sport qualifications in NQF's is still in discussion some follow up activities can already be identified:

- Monitoring of further developments in the inclusion of sport qualifications in NQFs leading to a final report in 2016;
- Development of a Reference framework for a proper proportional quality assurance system for the education and training system of the sport sector.



- Promotion cooperation between formal and non-formal education institutes regarding sport qualifications to enhance a cost effective and high quality sport education system
- Validation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning experiences in sport.
- Agreement on the position of International frameworks and conventions in the field of sport towards NQF and EQF

Other topics

With the concern on time spent in sport and physical activity in school and sport clubs the quality and qualifications of those providing these programmes. An activity could be:

- Role of coaches and coach training: The review, identification and promotion of the training of (specialist) coaches/teachers to provide better quality sport provision within sport and education. (the transition of Elite Athletes into Coaches)
- Role of Sport and Physical education to upgrade skills of young people to facilitate the entrance to the labour market. (sport as an educational key competence)