

Tweets of the month



EOCEUOFFICE

@EOCEUOffice Apr 29

The @coe /@EPAS_APES is organising an Expert Conference on Sexual Violence against Women and Children in #Sports in Helsinki today and tomorrow as part of the @coe Presidency of Finland. You can follow the stream here

[@CoE_StartToTalk #epasconf2019](https://live.kansallismuseo.fi/?live=starttotalk...)

EOCEUOFFICE

@EOCEUOffice Apr 17

Thank you @TNavracsicsEU, @lelosyv & @EuSport team again for a successful #eusportforum last week! Pleased to see on the agenda many important topics for the Olympic & sport movement, as well as speakers like

@sergey_bubka, @DankaBartekova, J. Kocijancic @EOCmedia, @Niels_Nygaard

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Apr 12

Our @POINTS_EU project successfully conducted its second educational seminar on good governance last week in @DOSB HQ. Read the article on the POINTS website for more information!

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Apr 2

Thank you @sportintergroup for your efforts for sport over the last 5 years! Let's continue the good work in the next @Europarl_EN!

The House of European Sport

Editorial 2

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

EU Sport Forum 2019: Crucial topics for Olympic and sport movement on the agenda 3

Upcoming European Parliament Elections 5

Developments regarding the Council of Europe's Macolin Convention 6

Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Sports Discussed in the Expert Conference of the Council of Europe 7

EP's Sport Intergroup sums-up the past 5 years of activities 8

ECHA restriction of microplastics could affect artificial turfs 9

EU moves to restrict use of bots to acquire tickets for resale 10

INTERNAL AND VISITS

POINTS project met in Frankfurt for the second educational seminar dedicated to the governance of sport organisations 11

PARTNER'S CORNER

Sports Clubs for Health (SCforH) Chosen as an Erasmus+ Success Story 13

NEXT MONTH

Dates in May 14

The House of European Sport

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The elections to the European Parliament will take place between 23 and 26 May. The Members elected for five years will have to take important decisions on the future of Europe. Trilogue negotiations with the Council and the Commission on the EU's future financial framework and on the concrete shape of future funding programmes have just begun or will begin under the Finnish Presidency starting on 1 July.

Many observers expect the anti-European forces in the EP to be strengthened. Even if the outcome of these elections is more uncertain than in previous years, it can be assumed that the democratic forces will ultimately be able to hold a clear majority in the EP. This does not mean, however, that the quasi "great coalition" between the EPP Group (conservatives) and the S&D Group (social democrats) will retain its majority. It looks more likely that new strategic coalitions with more than two political groups will be formed to obtain majorities. They will be less predictable, but may also lead to more lively discussions in the EP.

In any case, all voters should make use of their right to vote and vote for political parties that fall within the democratic spectrum. Europe needs democrats in all parliaments to meet the internal and external challenges facing the European Union effectively.

What do the elections mean for sport in Europe? In recent weeks and months, the old Parliament has adopted many files or adopted positions that are now becoming the subject of trilogue negotiations. During this time, the EOC EU Office has maintained a close exchange with parliamentarians, which has also borne fruits through the adoption of amendments in the area of future funding programmes. For example, the EP plenary supported the inclusion of sports infrastructure funding under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and called for the inclusion of sports/physical activity in the new Health Strand of the European Social Fund Plus programme. Against the background of the dramatic study results (e.g. by the WHO) on physical inactivity and obesity in Europe, it is incomprehensible that the EU Commission has not already provided this in its own initial proposal.

The expectation of sport is, of course, that the new MEPs will support and defend these amendments in the trilogue negotiations.

After the summer break, the Parliament itself will decide on the establishment of various intergroups. Over the last five years, the Sport Intergroup has been very active and has stimulated many discussions under the leadership of Marc Tarabella, Santiago Fisas Ayxelà and Bogdan Wenta. The two latter will unfortunately no longer be members of the EP. The Olympic sports movement would welcome the continuation of a Sport Intergroup and is available for future discussions on topics such as the strengthening of the European Sport model or the future financing of grassroots sport in Europe.

Enjoy your read,



Folker Hellmund
Director

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

EU Sport Forum 2019: Crucial topics for Olympic and sport movement on the agenda

On 8 and 9 April 2019, the European Commission and the Romanian Presidency of the Council organised the annual EU Sport Forum in Bucharest. A record number of 410 participants included a large number of representatives of sport federations and umbrella organisations. EOC President Janez Kocijancic and Vice-President Niels Nygaard were both present in panels.

After opening remarks by Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva (Director for Innovation, International Cooperation and Sport of the Commission), Santiago Fisas Ayxelà (MEP) and Mihai **Covaliu** (President Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee), several crucial topics for the Olympic and sport movement were discussed during the two days of the event.

The role of sport federations in the promotion of European sport

One of this year's main panels discussed the role of sport federations in the promotion of European sport. After the introductory remarks of Francesco **Ricci Bitti**, President of ASOIF, the panel recognised the crucial role and competence of international federations to govern their sport. Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Tibor Navracsics said: "International federations are essential components of the sport system and we need them for the cooperation as we can rely on their work as sport governing bodies." EOC President Janez **Kocijancić** reminded that Article 165 of the Lisbon Treaty recognises the specificity and autonomy of sport: "This is very important as it recognises the role of sport federations to govern their own sport. The EU Commission needs to guarantee the legal certainty for this governance."

Marijke **Fleuren**, European Hockey Federation (EHF) President, agreed and added: "We as sport governing bodies need to be proactive to develop our sport and redistribute the revenues to grassroots sport. That is our role." Doping in sport, rights of athletes and role of schools in promoting physical activity

Following this debate, Sébastien **Gillot**, (Director European Office & International Federation Relations, WADA) and Witold **Bańka** (Minister of Sport and Tourism of Poland and European candidate for the WADA presidency) discussed developments and challenges for the fight against doping. Both insisted on the need to further increase funding. Gillot also referred to the importance of capacity building for the creation of a level playing field. Bańka proposed a solidarity fund to tackle the inconsistent structure of anti-doping systems.

"Are the rights and interests of athletes sufficiently taken into account by sport governing bodies?" was the core question in the panel on the athletes' rights, which included IOC Member and Vice-Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission, Danka **Bartekova**, and Elisabeth **Cebrian Scheurer** (Development Projects and Women's Basketball, FIBA Europe). They both stressed the progress over the past years in involving athletes in the decision making of sport organisations. Ms Bartekova also highlighted the importance of understanding that athletes come from different backgrounds and are active under different circumstances, as most athletes are not professional, but amateurs. The discussion on the rights of athletes is too often only focusing on professional athletes, but the amateurs should not be forgotten, she stressed.

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Another workshop referred to the role schools can play to promote healthy lifestyles. Renato **Arena**, Vice-President of the European Volleyball Confederation (CEV), spoke about the needed cooperation between federations, clubs, and schools to reach all children and presented CEV's Erasmus+ project on "Mini Volley".

Can Europe still attract major sport events?

A panel including IOC Members Pál Schmitt and Sergey **Bubka** (also President of the Ukrainian NOC) discussed the future of major sport events in Europe. Jean-Loup Chappelet (University Lausanne) stressed that even though citizens in some European countries have recently rejected the hosting of certain major events, short and medium term benefits can be identified and should be presented accordingly. Sergey Bubka highlighted that the model needed to be adapted to the circumstances with more flexible and cross-border approaches to reduce costs as an important step following the IOC's "New Norm" (a set of reforms for the Olympic Games to be delivered in the future). French Minister for Sport, Roxana **Maracineanu**, added that sport events could also shape the national discussions, saying that sport was currently becoming a real French policy field in the course of the preparations for the Olympic Games 2024.

Why and how should be grassroots sport financed?

The panel on the financing of grassroots sport was opened by the EOC EU Office's Director Folker **Hellmund**. He expressed his astonishment over the fact that the question of why to finance grassroots sports still needed to be asked, and presented several elements, including - ECJ judgments, figures on the added value of sport for health, employability or the major role played by sport clubs to include disadvantaged social group – to illustrate that the need for sufficient and appropriate funding for grassroots sports was a no brainer. He explained how grassroots sport is financed and presented areas such as tax policy and infrastructure investment, where public support is needed. He also referred to the need to better use EU structural funds for sport. He further

highlighted that European NOCs are active in this regard, both in financing grassroots sport and in influencing public authorities to provide their financial support. Hansjörg **Höltkemeier**, President of the European Lotteries and Toto Association, regretted that the financing by lotteries is not well known and underlined that, contrary to betting sponsoring, lotteries do not request a counterpart for their contribution.

Are sport rights protected in the EU?

Unsurprisingly, the discussion focused on the Digital Single Market. Mark **Lichtenhein** (Sports Rights Owners Coalition) explained that the revenue from broadcasting rights is reinvested in (grassroots) sport. He referred, in particular, to the recently adopted Copyright Directive, and voiced disappointment over the fact that the sport neighbouring right had not been taken up in the final version. Krisztina **Stump** (Deputy Head Copyright Unit) explained why the Commission did not support the inclusion of this right in the Directive arguing that there was need for more evidence, but also acknowledging the problem with piracy. The Commission issued a declaration to work on piracy in sports in the future.

Justice in Sport and challenges of less popular sports

The following two parallel sessions discussed justice in sport, and challenges faced by less popular sports. The panel on justice in sport included Vice-President of European Athletics Jean **Gracia** as panellist, who explained the changes that IAAF has done in the past few years regarding their disciplinary procedures. Otherwise, the discussion focused on the role and functioning of CAS.

In the session on the less popular sport, President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, Krisztián **Kulcsár**, asked for a definition of what "less popular sports" really are as "which sports are popular or not cannot be always defined on global level; it is often a very national/regional phenomenon".

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Future engagement in sport?

In this last session of the Sport Forum, the panellists discussed people's engagement with sport in the future. Adrian **Beiu** (SAP) presented interactions of technology with sport referring both to connected devices used in mass sports and to data use in professional sports. He identified technological doping as a potential threat and the classification of esports as a big question. Christian **Sachs** (German Olympic Sports Confederation) presented the approach of German organised sport towards e-games: federations agreed to differentiate between virtual sports that replicate existing sports and e-games that do not reflect sporting requirements. EOC

Vice-President Niels **Nygaard** asked how to get more people active recalling the huge problems that physical inactivity creates for society. He urged sport organisations to be more flexible and develop a more varied offer.

As showcased above, the EU Sport Forum 2019 raised a number of questions, which are fundamental for the Olympic and sport movement. The EOC EU Office would like to thank the Sport Unit of the Commission for putting these topics on the agenda.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[EU Sport Forum 2019 - Event page](#)

Upcoming European Parliament Elections

On 23-26 May 2019, the European Parliament elections will take place. 751 MEPs will be elected for 5 years representing more than 512 million Europeans from 28 member states (if UK participates).

For the second time after the 2014 elections, the European political parties were asked to nominate candidates for a President of the European Commission. This 'Spitzenkandidaten process' has been developed to ensure that the European citizens not only elect the Parliament itself, but can influence on who is going to be the Head of the EU executive. The presidency of the Commission will most likely be occupied by the candidate of the political party that is able to gather sufficient support from the European Parliament. Manfred Weber, Spitzenkandidat for the European Peoples Party (EPP), Frans Timmermans, transnational lead candidate for the Party of European Socialists (PES) and Jan Zahradil, Spitzenkandidat for the Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists (ACR) are the sole candidates for their parties. Ska Keller and Bas Eikhout lead the European Greens, Nico Cué

and Violeta Tomič lead the European Left and the Alliance of Liberals whereas the Democrats Europe (ALDE) is represented by a team of liberal leaders, such as Margrethe Vestager and Guy Verhofstadt. Most of these candidates will represent their political views and parties at a debate in Brussels on 15 May 2019, where urgent issues and the future of the EU will be discussed. This event will be broadcasted all over Europe.

The EP elections will also have an impact on the sports policy of the European Union. The successful work of the current Sport Intergroup has shown the necessity and power of such an intergroup. Moreover, the new Commission and the new Commissioner for Sport will be chosen and an overall affinity to sports of the acting persons is crucial to further mainstream sport at the European level.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Briefing: the Spitzenkandidaten process](#)

[How to vote](#)

Developments regarding the Council of Europe's Macolin Convention

In March 2012, a Council of Europe resolution on international cooperation on promotion of the integrity of sport against the match-fixing resulted in the start of the drafting process for the Macolin Convention. The Convention was subsequently opened for signature on 18 September 2014. It contains various provisions against the manipulation of sports results with the purpose to prevent, detect and sanction manipulations on sport in national and international levels, and to promote cooperation against manipulation of sports competitions between the various stakeholders involved in sports and sports betting.

In light of the global problem of match-fixing in sports, the Convention is open for signature not only to Council of Europe member states, but to the European Union and all countries internationally. On the level of the EU the ratification process has been halted due to an initial Request for opinion to the Court of Justice (CJEU) by Malta, which was withdrawn in August 2015. Malta disagrees with the convention's definition of illegal sports betting as betting and gambling is the second largest economic sector for Malta, thus it is blocking the ratification of Convention by the EU.

Five ratifications including at least three member states of the Council of Europe are required for the convention to enter into force. Currently Norway, Moldova, Portugal and Ukraine officially ratified the Convention. Despite the fact that the Convention has not entered into force yet, a number of member states have started to implement several provisions, including the setting up of national platforms.

The fifth country to ratify the Macolin Convention is likely to be Switzerland or Italy. Both countries have ratified it at the Parliament level already, but to be considered as an official ratification, the highest authority of the country (e.g. President for Italy) must send the "tool of ratification" to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

The Convention will enter into force three months after the date of the official ratification by the fifth country. Following the ratification the Council of Europe has to organise the first Follow-up committee within a year. This group will be composed of the "countries that ratified the convention and will be in charge of monitoring, standard setting and developing the effectiveness of the Convention". The Follow up committee will be responsible for adopting recommendations and other protocols in annex to the Convention and for deciding on working groups, focus areas, assistance activities and compliance by Parties. Participation of sport organisations in this committee will be one of the first discussions of the Follow up committee.

Sports manipulation is a phenomenon that exists on the global level and thus it should be tackled with the global response. The Macolin Convention is currently the only existing legally binding tool to fight the manipulation of sports internationally.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions – Macolin Convention \(CETS n°215\). Panorama.](#)

[The Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions \(the Macolin Convention\)](#)

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Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Sports Discussed in the Expert Conference of the Council of Europe

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe organised an Expert Conference on Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Sports in Helsinki on 29-30 April. The conference was part of the Finnish Presidency of the Council of Europe and brought together around 80 participants such as experts, policy-makers, researchers and representatives of sport organisations to discuss this serious topic. Sexual violence affects 1 in 5 children in Europe. Furthermore, research shows that one in three victims will never tell anyone and that about 80% of the abusers are within the child's circle of trust. Sport is no exception, but a lack of data on the exact numbers in sport is one of the challenges, which was also raised in the conference.

The first day started with a panel discussion with e.g. IOC Athletes Commission Member Emma Terho, European Commission Policy Officer Paola Ottonello and a survivor of sexual abuse, Tineke Sonck, who is a founder of Belgian NGO "Voices in Sport", which aims at raise awareness on the topic. The testimony of Ms Sonck was very powerful as she shared her personal case being abused by her coach as a child. The panel agreed that cooperation and coordination is needed between different actors to tackle sexual abuse and violence in sport, as well as is the education and raising awareness on the topic, as it is still a taboo in many countries. Also codes of conduct were seeing as important measures. However, the panel agreed that even more significant is that there is a system of sanctions and investigations in place, as otherwise the codes of conduct do not have any power. In the end of the first day, Elda Moreno, Head of Children's Rights and Sport Values Department at the Council of Europe gave an update on the flagship initiative of the Council of Europe: "Start to Talk", which is a campaign and call to action to public authorities and sport movement to stop child sexual abuse.

The second day of the conference started with an academic approach, as respected researchers in the field, Mike Hartill from the Edge Hill University in UK and Professor Emerita, Kari Fasting from the Norwegian School of Sport Science and Equal Rights in Sport shared some facts and figures on sexual violence in sport. However, as they both stressed, the lack of European-wide data on the topic is a huge challenge since there is information available only in few countries in Europe. The academic part of the conference was followed by interesting practical examples from the sport organisations when Håvard B. Øvregård from the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF) as well as Jaakko Luumi from the Finnish Ice-Hockey Federation shared their experiences. NIF has already for several years worked systematically to tackle the phenomenon in sports. In his presentation, Mr Øvregård stressed the importance of effective reporting and sanction measures. "Stating to have a zero tolerance does not mean anything, if you don't have effective procedures in place to react to the reported cases", Mr Øvregård said. The "You are not alone" helpline, presented by Mr Luumi, is a concrete example on the establishment of a reporting mechanism. This helpline was launched by the Finnish Ice-Hockey Federation together with some Finnish expert organisations. Through this helpline people who have faced inappropriate behaviour in any sport can get support via phone or online chat.

The second day finished with practical workshops, facilitated by EOC EU Office Deputy Director Heidi Pekkola, where the participants could discuss and share their experiences and ideas on the support systems and care management, codes of conduct, minimising risks, educational programmes and protection strategies. In the lively discussions, many practical examples and ideas were shared to conclude the two-day conference.

The House of European Sport

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/sexual-violence-against-women-and-children-in-sports>

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/start-to-talk>

EP's Sport Intergroup sums-up the past 5 years of activities

On 2 April 2019, the European Parliament's Sport Intergroup organised a cocktail reception at the EP premises in Brussels to sum-up and review together with the friends of sport its activities and initiatives of the past 5 years.

The Intergroup's, Co-President, Marc Tarabella welcomed everyone and presented the progress report summarising the Intergroup's achievement of the past legislature. In total, its members have:

- organised 20 events ranging from professional sport, in particular football, - related hearings and sessions, to expert meetings on topics such as dual careers or mental health in elite sport;
- conducted 9 study visits;
- contributed and/or authored 16 reports and resolutions (including the multiannual financial framework files – Erasmus etc.);
- submitted 53 written questions to the European Commission;
- put forward 6 written declarations.

Co-President, Santiago Fisas, and Vice-Presidents Bogdan Wenta, Tiziana Beghin and Bogushaw Sonik also delivered their speeches at the beginning of the event and thanked to all who have contributed to the work of the Sport Intergroup. The European Commissioner of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Tibor Navracsics joined the meeting as well.

In their concluding remarks, all speakers affirmed the importance of the Intergroup's work and expressed the pride of the progress made. With this in mind, they called on the future European Parliament to actively engage and commit to the themes central to sport. Those members who will participate in the upcoming elections acknowledged their desire to continue the work towards promotion of sport in the European political debate.

European Parliament's intergroups are formed to support an informal exchange of views on particular matters between MEPs and to promote contact to civil society. The Sport Intergroup has brought together MEPs who are interested in sport in general or in any particular sport-related issue. The current Intergroup was established in 2014 when over 100 MEPs supported its creation. Its members have actively cooperated with the European Commission as well as with the representatives of the sport movement, including the EOC EU Office. Thus, the EOC EU Office would like to warmly thank the Sport Intergroup and its active MEPs for the good cooperation over the last five years and furthermore supports the establishment of a new Sport Intergroup after the elections.

ECHA restriction of microplastics could affect artificial turfs

In January, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published a restriction proposal regarding intentionally used microplastics as the persistence and the potential for adverse effects or bioaccumulation of microplastics is a cause for concern. Once released, they can be extremely persistent in the environment, lasting thousands of years, and practically impossible to remove. During the preparation of the file, it became apparent that the rubber granulates used in artificial turf (mainly football pitches) fit the definition of microplastics as they are generally smaller than 5 mm. However, no information had been submitted during a call for evidence last year, meaning that no special regulations in this regard are included in the restriction file.

In case the file would be adopted as proposed, this would mean rubber infill material would be banned as of the entry into force of the restriction (estimated for end of 2020 or beginning of 2021). However, the discussions on the restriction process are currently still ongoing and the scope and application of the restriction can potentially still be adapted. Artificial turf could therefore for instance still benefit from a delayed entry into force (the proposal foresees transition periods of up to six years for other sectors).

Over the next nine and twelve months respectively ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-Economic Analysis Committee (SEAC) are preparing opinions on the

file and its implications. Only after this will ECHA send the proposal to the European Commission, who will then normally legally implement the restriction.

In order to prepare for these committee discussions, ECHA is currently organising a [public consultation](#), calling for evidence on the impact the proposed restriction would have. As the potential effect on artificial turf was identified after the call for evidence, question 2 of the questionnaire explicitly asks for data and further information on granular infill material. **The consultation is open until 20 September 2019, but contributors are called to already submit opinions by 20 May 2019 in order for them to be taken up in the first rounds of the discussion of the mentioned committees.** Several contributions are equally possible, if new information arises at a later stage.

Several sport organisations including the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) and the German Football Federation (DFB) are currently working on the topic and are preparing contributions to the consultation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[ECHA - Press release \(30/01/2019\): "ECHA proposes to restrict intentionally added microplastics"](#)

[Link to ECHA Consultation](#)

The House of European Sport

EU moves to restrict use of bots to acquire tickets for resale

On 17 April 2019, the European Parliament approved an agreement reached in trilogue negotiations with European Commission and Council on strengthening consumer protection rules. The rules aim to improve ranking transparency in online marketplaces and to tackle dual quality of products, but also include a clause on the resale of tickets to cultural and sport events.

The resale of tickets to sport events has been a controversial topic across the EU over a longer time period. Especially the business model of reselling tickets for interesting events for amounts greatly over the original price have caused calls to limit these practices.

Generally though, no EU-wide legislation on the resale of tickets exists, with differing rules in place across Member States (e.g. Germany, the UK and Portugal generally allow resales, while Poland, Spain, Belgium, Croatia and France forbid it). Denmark raised the topic in the Sport Ministers Council in December 2018, pointing out that although resales are not allowed nationally, it is not possible for the country to take action against platform operators based in other member states.

The rules adopted in the EP last months do not regulate on ticket resales generally, but ban the use of bots to acquire tickets in the first place. Using software, resellers have up until now been able to buy big quantities of tickets at the opening of sales, as the programs can access and request the sale faster than normal customers. This led to large quantities of tickets being directly syphoned into the secondary market before single customers had a chance to acquire them directly from the event organisers.

The legislation will enter into force as soon as the Council of the EU equally approves the negotiated Directive.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Parliament - Press release \(17/04/2019\): "European Parliament strengthens EU consumer protection rules"](#)

FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND STUDIES

POINTS project met in Frankfurt for the second educational seminar dedicated to the governance of sport organisations



On 1 to 3 April, the POINTS project organised the second session of its educational programme for Single Points of Contact for Integrity (SPOCs) in the headquarters of German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB), in Frankfurt. 21 participants from 13 partner organisations participated in the seminar dedicated to the topic of good governance in the field of sport.

The objective of this seminar, as for the first one in Lyon focusing on manipulation of sport competitions, was to provide the participants with a solid understanding on different aspects of good governance in order to empower them when dealing with challenging situations in their roles as SPOCs. The project management, in cooperation with the partners of the project prepared a seminar addressing key issues in which SPOCs can have an impact with a combination of expert presentations, practical cases and simulation exercise.

Following welcoming words by Christina Gassner, Chief Executive of the German Sports Youth and member of the DOSB Executive Board, participants received an inspiring presentation by Maria Clarke, Sport lawyer from New Zealand. Mrs Clarke, who notably cooperates with several organisations on their governance including IAAF,

World Sailing and International Hockey Federation and is/has been involved in Commissions of the IOC and ANOC, described her experience with governance changes and presented some crucial elements to be taken into account during the process of implementing good governance. The second part of the session was led by the EOC EU Office team with presentations by Folker Hellmund, Director and Valentin Capelli, Project Manager, on the different activities a SPOC can conduct in the field of good governance.

The activities of the second day focused on specific aspects of governance to encourage participants to discuss about their experience, to share good practices and to debate on the different issues. Fruitful discussions and exercises took place under the lead and the expertise of Rowland Jack, founder of I Trust Sport, on topics such as integrity policies, conflict of interest, difference between regulations and behaviour, transparency, elections and stakeholders' involvement. To conclude the day, Vijaya Panangipalli, Governance Manager at Sport and Recreation Alliance UK, gave a presentation on the importance of Governance Behaviours with a focus on the work that federations made in the UK to implement the Governance Code from the Government.

Two more topics were covered during the final day of the seminar: the process of modification of statutes as well as the version 2.0 of the SIGGS self-evaluation tool. To discuss the modification of statutes, Heidi Pekkola, Deputy Director of the EOC EU Office and Valentin Capelli organised a group simulation using two concrete cases on gender equality and code of ethics. The simulation was followed by concrete examples of changes in the governance of partner organisations with

The House of European Sport

presentations by Dirk Deldaele (VTV – Vlaamse Tennisvereniging, Flemish Tennis League) and Apostolos Gogakos (CEV).

The EOC EU Office would like to thank all speakers as well as all participants for very fruitful discussions and for contributing to a very positive

working atmosphere throughout the three-day seminar.

On 21 May the group will meet in Lisbon for the final educational seminar focusing on the role and responsibilities of SPOCs.

PARTNERS' CORNER

Sports Clubs for Health (SCforH) Chosen as an Erasmus+ Success Story

The Erasmus+ programme has chosen the “Promoting National Implementation for Sports Club for Health Programmes in EU Member States” (Sports Club for Health, SCforH), a project ran by the Finnish Olympic Committee, as one of the Erasmus+ success stories. The selection was made by a panel of experts from the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission. Success stories are described on the following way: “Success stories are finalised projects that have distinguished themselves by their impact, contribution to policy-making, innovative results and/or creative approach and can be a source of inspiration for others. The choice of project as a success story is made on the basis of a selection process according to rigorous criteria regarding the quality, relevance and results of project.”

Finnish Olympic Committee and its partners are very pleased with this recognition of their hard work during years 2015-2017. “Finnish Olympic Committee was really surprised to get such a valuable recognition for our and our partners work. We would like to thank the Commission as well as all project partners for the good cooperation,” says Project Manager Ulla Nykänen from the Finnish Olympic Committee. Following this selection, the SCforH Project will be marked as “success story” in the [‘Erasmus+ Project Results Platform’](#) of the European Commission. This platform gathers all project results of Erasmus+ Projects in one comprehensive database.

The Sports Club for Health approach aims to give sports clubs new and practical ways of getting members of all ages involved in health-enhancing physical activity. As part of the project, sporting disciplines also identify their specific health effects. The project was run in seven countries

and with 19 partners between years 2015 and 2017. The Sports Club for Health approach has been implemented in a variety of ways and countries. In the Finnish model, the principles of Sports Club for Health are applied to the promotion of health-enhancing physical activity in sports clubs.

“The Sports Club for Health principles are involved and embedded in national sports club quality programme called “Star Club”. So our 500 Star Clubs work on promoting our approach every day in Finland.” Nykänen says.

“The model has been presented to the International Olympic Committee and, at an ENGSO event, to European umbrella sport organisations, sports federations and national Olympic Committees. Sports clubs that follow our approach become strong promoters of an active lifestyle,” Nykänen says.

“This project involved a wide range of players, and we also faced some challenges along the way. For example, the differences in physical activity culture between countries affected how the project progressed. However, when we learnt from each other, we got things done,” says Project Coordinator/Special Adviser Timo Hämäläinen from the Finnish Regional Sports Federation.

“We’ve got off to a good start in spreading the principles of Sports Club for Health, and we’re going to keep this up in future projects,” Hämäläinen says. The Sports Club for Health website has a lot of information and tools to help decision makers, sports and regional federations, and sports clubs to promote health-enhancing physical activity.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

<https://www.scforh.info/>

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NEXT MONTH

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|------------------|---|
| 17 May | 2 nd Executive Committee Meeting, Vienna |
| 18-19 May | EOC Seminar, Vienna |
| 21-23 May | POINTS Seminar, Lisbon |