

## Tweets of the month



### [EUSport](#)

@EuSport Apr 30

Breaking news ⚡ The #EUSport call for proposals EAC/S07/2020 "Exchanges and mobility in sport" is now open!

Submit your application by 11 June 2020 🕒 12 noon CET →

<https://europa.eu/!wb38xh>

### [EurOlympic](#)

@EOCmedia Apr 21

EOC [@EOCEUOffice](#) takes lead in asking EU to support sport organisations. "The access for sport organisations and sport clubs to the current and future funding schemes must be safeguarded..." Kocijancic said in a letter to [@vonderleyen](#) <https://bit.ly/34R9g0w>

### [EOC EU Office](#)

@EOCEUOffice Apr 21

This is positive news and we are pleased to see that the important measures proposed in our position paper have been taken on board. Now we need to ensure that this is implemented properly at national level by the Member States. 2/2 <https://bit.ly/3bzWx4E>

### [EOC EU Office](#)

@EOCEUOffice Apr 21

Thanks a lot [@EU2020HR](#) & EU Sport Ministers for pointing out that every opportunity to reallocate existing & planned funds at national level should be taken, and highlighting that the use of EU funds should be considered for sport to overcome crisis <https://bit.ly/3bsvs3A>

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### EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the EOC EU Office, I would first like to wish you and your families all the best for your health.

With a flexibility that is highly remarkable by Brussels standards, the European Union is trying to make its contribution to the economic and social containment of the Covid-19 crisis. The aid programmes that have already been decided and those that are still to be expected will go far beyond in their flexibility compared to the Union's current financial framework.

The first aid package of €540 billion adopted by the EU Ministers of Finance on 9 April is due to be operational on 1 June. With the SURE instrument (Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency) at least one programme out of this proposal is in principle also open to sports organisations affected by the crisis. The funds of €100 billion earmarked for this purpose are to be made available to SMEs to help them cope with their short-time work programmes. However, the exact conditions for the distribution of the funds have not yet been decided.

Also, of interest is the agreed flexibilisation of the European Structural and Investment Funds under the Corona Response Investment Initiative (CRII), which will be implemented at regional level in Europe. According to the proposal of the European Commission as of 2 April, the flexibilisation, which originally only applied to the funds not yet committed for the years 2019 and 2020, is to be extended to the funds expected to be made available in 2021 and 2022 (CRII+).

In their video conference on 24 April, the Heads of State and Government agreed in principle that the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 (MFF) should be developed both as an instrument to combat the consequences of Covid-19 and to increase the Union's sustainable competitiveness. The European Commission was asked to submit a new proposal for the MFF by mid-May. Initial deliberations envisage that it will set up a "Union Recovery Programme" with a budget of €323 billion. Here, too, the aim must be to establish sport as eligible for funding in order to cushion the economic impact in the following years as well.

It is pleasing to note that, at the video conference of the EU Sports Ministers on 21 April, both the Sports Ministers and Commissioner Gabriel supported the call for sport to be integrated into national and European support programmes. This proposal should be taken up by sports organisations in their negotiations at the national level on the implementation of support measures. Sport organisations must call for equal treatment with other sectors.

The EOC EU office is strictly following the guidelines of the Belgian Security Council and will work from the home office at least until 18 May.

Enjoy reading and stay healthy!



Folker Hellmund  
Director EOC EU Office

## EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

### EOC EU Office coordinates a multi-stakeholder Covid-19 position paper asking for support of sport organisations by the EU

Sport throughout Europe is heavily affected by the coronavirus crisis. It is the entire world of sport that is facing major challenges: from small grassroots clubs to professional teams, from athletes and coaches to competition officials, fans and sponsors. Amongst those hardest hit are sport clubs and federations, which, due to their status of non-for-profit organisation, are not allowed to keep substantial reserves. Those clubs and federations many times face liquidity shortages or even face a bankruptcy due to the lack of revenue. Thus, currently, many sport organisations are forced to lay off their staff, hoping for a quick normalisation in the near future.

Therefore, early in the outbreak, the EOC EU Office in collaboration with sport stakeholders of the [SHARE Initiative](#), started to reflect on the situation and produced a "Position paper on the impact of Covid-19 crisis on the sport sector". Doing so, the EOC EU Office successfully coordinated the initiative in order to bring together different sport organisations gathering a wide support. 44 sport stakeholders, including European sports federations such as FIBA Europe, CEV, European Athletics, European Handball Federation and Rugby Europe, as well as 18 National Olympic Committees have supported the Covid-19 position paper. The document has been sent to the main EU actors, including, for instance, the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Commissioners Mariya Gabriel (responsible for sport) and Elisa Ferreira (Cohesion and Reforms), European Parliament President David Sassoli, and Croatian EU Presidency to raise awareness of sport organisations' needs in the coronavirus crisis.

The joint position paper urges the European entities to ensure that sport organisations are fully

eligible for support under relevant EU funding schemes directed to overcome the crisis. This is related, especially, to the redirection of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), such as the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII), and the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+). As the ESIF are managed at national/regional level, they should be used as an instrument to directly support sport clubs, federations, athletes and coaches to mitigate the impact of the crisis on their operation and activities. Furthermore, the paper presents an "action plan for the promotion of sport for a more resilient and sustainable Europe", proposing more support measures that would directly benefit the sport sector.

#### **Sport Ministers back up the requests of the position paper**

The EU Sport Ministers had a videoconference to discuss the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on sport on 21 April 2020. According to the press releases of the meeting, the position paper had a successful impact since both the European Commission and the Council backed the request underlined in the position paper.

European Commission's press release: "The Commission outlined its instruments and resources to provide assistance and invited Member States to use them for the sport sector. These include the Corona Crisis Investment Initiative (CRII), Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) and the Temporary Framework for State Aid"

In addition, the Sport Ministers also highlighted the importance of sport for regional development, and thus underlined that sport should be supported by

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the reallocated structural funds. According to the [Croatian EU Presidency press release](#): *"They (ministers) pointed out that every opportunity to reallocate existing and planned funds at national level should be taken, but also highlighted that the use of EU funds and the recognition of sport as an important part of regional development should be considered in line with national priorities and in cooperation between relevant stakeholders".*

The EOC EU Office would like to thank all the SHARE Initiative stakeholders for the good collaboration, as well as the partners of the EOC EU Office for their support and endorsement to the Position paper. This wide support by the European sport movement made the document very powerful and contributed to the successful outcomes. In

addition, the Office urges all the NOCs, and other sport organisations at the national level, to be active towards their governments, that sport will be supported from the different funding schemes to overcome the crisis.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[More information](#)

[Position paper on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the sport sector](#)

[Press release European Commission](#)

[Press release Croatian EU Presidency](#)

## First EOC EU Office webinar on Erasmus+ project management and impact of the Covid-19 situation

On Tuesday 14 April, the EOC EU Office opened its series of webinars for the month of April with a session dedicated to Erasmus+ Sport, the European Solidarity Corps and the management of the EU projects.

20 participants from 15 partner organisations with different knowledge and experiences regarding Erasmus+ project management took part in the meeting. The main objective was to provide them with the most recent information regarding the impact of Covid-19 on the management of Erasmus+ projects, as well as to introduce upcoming funding opportunities and to encourage the participants to apply funding with some tips and recommendations.

This first virtual meeting was an opportunity for Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, to describe the current working conditions at the EOC EU Office, the objectives of the webinar series organised by the Office and the latest activities at the EU level (see the dedicated article).

Following this introduction, the Erasmus+ session started with a state of play regarding Erasmus+ Sport Projects in the current situation. The main announcements made by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) were presented:

- Maximum flexibility for beneficiary organisations with the possibility to invoke the "force majeure" clause to cancel or postpone activities.
- Eligibility period for project activities could be extended up to 12 months (following EACEA assessment);
- Already engaged expenses could be considered as eligible (following EACEA assessment);
- Erasmus+ call 2020 deadline postponed to 21 April;

The EOC EU Office strongly encouraged all participants to read the EACEA information ([Q&A](#))

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and to be in touch with their EACEA contact persons.

During the second part of the webinar, the focus was on the funding opportunities offered by both Erasmus+ Sport and the European Solidarity Corps programmes. The aim was to explain the different activities, which can present an interest for partners. Furthermore, the participants discussed the obstacles generally preventing or reducing the number of applications by sport organisations, such as the complexity of the process, possible tips to overcome these difficulties as well as benefits of being involved in the EU projects.

The last part of the webinar was a presentation on the available information regarding future opportunities within the next generation of the EU funding programmes. The EOC EU Office presented the provisional plan for the new Erasmus programme – including the start of Key Action 1 mobility for sport, simplification of the application process and potential changes for the format of events. However, all these elements remain linked to the final decision on the new Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2021-2027. The current situation creates even more uncertainties regarding the amount allocated to the Erasmus and will impact the design of the future sport chapter.

## Second EOC EU Office webinar organised on Gender Equality

On 21 April 2020, the EOC EU Office organised the second edition of its webinars during the time of the Covid-19 epidemic, using the opportunity to update its partners on the latest policy developments on gender equality in the EU, inspire and get input from the participants. The webinar brought together 30 participants from 11 NOCs and National Sports Confederations and several international sports organisations, including the IOC.

As an introduction, the Office shared some up to date statistics on different areas of gender equality, in particular leadership and coaching. There are currently 6 women and 44 men as NOC Presidents in Europe – the proportion of women has doubled in 10 years, but with this pace, full gender balance would still not be reached until 2070.

Some of the most important policy initiatives promoting gender equality were also shared, those by the European Union as well as the sports movement. The EU Proposal for Strategic Actions 2014–2020 was published in 2014, and its recommendations are still valid today in spite of them expiring shortly. The document proposed actions in four areas: decision-making, coaching,

gender-based violence, and gender stereotypes and the role of the media. All areas propose actions also for the sports movement. The document set objectives that by 2020 all national sport governing bodies should have both genders represented by at least 40% in their executive committees, and that women and men should make up minimum 40% of the coaching workforce.

Marie Sallois, Director Corporate and Sustainable development at the International Olympic Committee (IOC), presented the implementation status of the IOC Equality Recommendations and shared other ongoing gender equality initiatives of the IOC, including their upcoming comprehensive Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan for 2021–2024 and their collaboration with UN Women in the context of Sustainable Development Goals.

The recently adopted EOC Gender Equality Commission Strategy 2019–2021 was also presented, along with its key objectives in the areas of sport, portrayal, monitoring and communication, funding, and governance and HR.

The new EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025, published in March 2020, presents policy



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objectives and actions on gender equality in different sectors, including sport. The implementation of the strategy will be based on the dual approach of targeted measures to achieve gender equality, combined with strengthened gender mainstreaming.

The strategy suggests a “*renewed strategic framework for gender equality in sport*”, which will “*promote women’s and girls’ participation in sport and physical activity and gender balance in leadership positions within sport organisations*”. Furthermore, the strategy proposes an “*Inclusion and Diversity Strategy for the future Erasmus+ programme*” which will “*provide guidance on how the programme can help address gender inequalities in all education and training, youth and sport sectors*”. The strategy can also have an impact on sport from the perspectives of e.g. gender stereotypes, gender-based violence and harassment and gender pay gap, as well as through mainstreamed measures.

Furthermore, the participants were informed of EU sports policy initiatives that support the promotion

of gender equality within sport. Several successful projects led by sports organisations have been funded through Erasmus+ Sport, such as [SCORE](#), [VOICE](#), [MIRACLE](#) and [SUCCESS](#).

The webinar participants also used the opportunity to share actions and developments in their countries and organisations, as well as proposed equality topics and possible future activities that are relevant for them. The EOC EU Office has taken notice of the proposals and the positive feedback from participants, and will continue working on the topic also in the future in different ways.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Gender Equality in Sport. Proposal for Strategic Actions 2014–2020](#)

[EOC Gender Equality Commission Strategy 2019–2021](#)

[IOC and the promotion of gender equality in sport](#)

[EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025](#)

## EOC EU Office organises webinar on the European Green Deal

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On Tuesday 29 April, the EOC EU Office hosted the third webinar in its current webinar series. In the 1.5-hour session, the webinar introduced Office partners to the background of the European Green Deal and its potential impact on sport.

Representatives of seventeen organisations took part in the webinar, including a number of National Olympic Committees, confederations, European and International Federations as well as the IOC. The webinar was mainly addressed to experts in the field of ecological sustainability in the respective associations.

The first part of the virtual meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the context and background

of the [European Green Deal](#), which was unveiled in December 2019, only a couple of weeks after the official start of the new European Commission. The initiative aims to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The Green Deal is considered to be Europe's new growth strategy, which at the same time protects the environment.

In the second part of the webinar, relevant priority work packages of the Green Deal were examined in more detail and their potential impact on sport was highlighted. A closer look was taken at the following aspects:

- EU Climate Law: The initiative would enshrine the goal of climate neutrality by 2050 into law

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and thus make it legally binding. At present, the climate law is at the stage of Commission proposal, which will go through the ordinary legislative procedure at the Council and the European Parliament.

- **Climate protection and energy efficiency:** The revision of directives on the use of renewable energy and on energy efficiency will lead to greater emphasis being placed on more sustainable operations of sports facilities.
- **Circular economy:** The EU aims to transform its economy from linear to circular. The avoidance of waste, especially plastic waste, is a challenge that sport will have to face increasingly in the coming years.
- **Biodiversity:** The protection of biological diversity will be another priority of the EU in the coming years. Since sport benefits from an intact nature (e.g. climbing, canoeing, diving, biking) it is the responsibility of the sport movement to protect biodiversity accordingly.
- **Pollution and chemicals:** It's expected that the demand for nature-compatible and nature-based chemicals will increase. This already has an impact on sport: in particular, the current ECHA restriction procedures in the field of microplastics and lead may have a significant impact on the future of, respectively, artificial turf pitches and ammunition in shooting sports.
- **Climate Pact:** The Pact aims to involve citizens and communities in actions for climate and environmental protection. The EOC EU Office advises sports organisations to fill out the [corresponding questionnaire](#) and become active.

These thematic blocks were enriched by selective interventions by Julie Duffus (IOC Senior Sustainability Manager), who presented the IOC's activities in the relevant areas as well as by experts from the other partner organisations.

In the third part of the webinar, possible EU funding opportunities in the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, which could help sport organisations meet the challenges of the future, were identified. Structural Funds (e.g. ERDF and ESF+), Horizon Europe, LIFE programme and Erasmus+ Sport were mentioned.

In the last part of the webinar, the most relevant information was abstracted and possibilities to become active were pointed out. The Green Deal imposes a cross-sectoral sustainability on the EU. For the sports movement, this approach offers a great opportunity to proactively drive its own transition. Therefore, it is necessary that sports organisations become an active part of the change process and get involved in the discussions. After all, sport has enormous potential to raise awareness of climate and environmental issues and to lead by example. In this sense, it can be advantageous to develop new forms of cooperation, for example, with the respective national ministries, EU institutions or environmental protection organisations.

The Director of the EOC EU Office, Folker Hellmund, concluded: "The manifold contributions of the participants have shown that the topic of the EU Green Deal meets the interests of NOCs and federations and that a number of activities are already on the way that could be linked to the upcoming EU initiatives. In any case, this successful meeting will have a follow-up soon."

## FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND STUDIES

### Call for Proposals: Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees

The European Commission has published a call for proposals on the topic **“Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees”**. With this call, around 6 projects would be selected to be co-financed with concrete actions aiming at integrating refugees through sport. Contrary to the Erasmus+ Sport calls, which are run by the EACEA, the Sport Unit of the European Commission is responsible for this call. Also, the application process is simplified compared to the Erasmus+ Sport. Furthermore, it is important to notice that activities at national level are eligible for this call as you do not need partners from other countries. The applicant must have their registered legal office in one of the EU Member States and the activities must also take place in the EU Member States.

The expected outputs of the funded projects would be the following:

- Organise sport activities for refugees
- Promote the practice of sport and physical activity by refugees
- Promote the cooperation of refugees and host communities in the organisation of sport activities.

A non-exhaustive list of the main activities eligible under this call for proposals is listed below:

- Sport activities aimed at promoting participation of refugees into EU societies
- Preparation and training of sport coaches and staff who will work on integration and social inclusion of refugees through sport

- Development of activities and identification of good practices about participation of refugees in sport activities aimed at their integration into host societies.

The maximum amount to be awarded per project is €300.000 and the minimum would be of €200.000. The EU grant is limited to a maximum co-financing rate of 80% of eligible costs.

Deadline for submitting applications is 01/06/2020 (12:00pm Brussels time). The selected projects can start at the earliest on 01/01/2021 and need to be completed by 31/12/2023. The duration of the project will be of a minimum of 24 months and of a maximum of 36 months.

The call for proposals in English and summaries in different EU languages can be found from [here](#).

#### **Other pilot calls to be published soon**

In addition, the European Commission has published or is publishing similar calls for proposals for pilot projects in the coming weeks on the following topics:

- Exchanges and mobility in sport (already out – see a separate article)
- Monitoring and coaching, through sports, of youngsters at risk of radicalization
- Grassroots sports programmes and infrastructure innovation.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

[Call for proposals: Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees](#)



## Call for Proposals: Exchanges and mobility in sport

The European Commission has published a call for proposals on the topic “**Exchanges and mobility in sport**”. The general objective of this action is to give the opportunity to staff of sport organisations (athletes entourage) to improve their competences as well as qualifications and acquire new skills through **learning mobility** by spending a period of time in a foreign country (in and outside of the EU).

Opportunities for learning mobility in this context should be addressed to:

- Coaches and other 'staff' of sport organisations (including volunteers) – linked to professional sport;
- Coaches and other 'staff' of sport organisations (including volunteers) – linked to grassroots sport.

The action intends to impact two major fields:

- Improving the knowledge and know-how of sport staff;
- Developing international cooperation in the field of learning mobility in sport.

The expected outcomes are twofold:

- Regular exchange schemes for sport staff;
- Establishment of European networks of coaches and sport staff.

Eligible activities in this regard are amongst others: exchanges of coaches, placements, periods of trainings/study and job-shadowing. The activities should not involve athletes as participants.

The international dimension of sport should be developed in the form of cooperation between **at least 3 organisations established in 3 different**

**EU Member States** (the applicant organisation and, in addition, 2 other organisations established in different EU Member States) **and at least one organisation** established in one of the following regions: **Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Asia, Latin America, and Africa**.

The applicant organisation has to be based in one of the EU Member States. The action will consequently be implemented through five different lots:

- Lot 1: Cooperation with Western Balkans
- Lot 2: Cooperation with Eastern Partnership
- Lot 3: Cooperation with Asia
- Lot 4: Cooperation with Latin America
- Lot 5: Cooperation with Africa

Applicant organisations need to prove **established cooperation/contacts** with the potential partner entities.

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects under this call for proposals is estimated at €1.400.000. The EU grant is limited to a **maximum co-financing rate of 80%** of eligible costs. It is envisaged that approximately **7 projects** will be financed (in principle and depending on the quality, **at least one per lot**). The maximum amount per individual grant will be **€200.000**.

The minimum duration of projects is 6 months. The maximum duration of projects is 24 months.

**Deadline** for submitting applications is **11/06/2020, 12:00, (noon), Brussels time**. The activities of the selected projects may not start before 01/01/2021 and need to be completed by 31/12/2022.

Contrary to the Erasmus+ Sport calls, which are run by the EACEA, the Sport Unit of the European

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Commission is responsible for this call. Also, the application process is simplified compared to the Erasmus+ Sport.

[Call for proposals: Exchanges and mobility in sport](#)

[Questions and Answers](#)

### FURTHER INFORMATION

## Skills and competences of coaches: new EU guidelines published

After having been officially presented at the Croatian Presidency “coaches” conference at the end of February (see the respective Monthly report), the comprehensive [Guidelines regarding the minimum requirements in skills and competences for coaches](#) have been finally made public.

The main aim of the document developed by the European Commission Expert Group on Skills and Human Resources Development in Sport is to propose a common minimum set of competences for coaches in Europe. As the authors stress in the document, the position and role of coaches in society has changed and is more comprehensive and perhaps more complicated than ever before. “Coaches are persons who fulfil diverse expectations of society in the domain of physical performance and sport as well as personal development”, states the document. Therefore, the experts believe that it is necessary to reflect this multitude of tasks and roles in the coaches’ education to equip them better with the right skills and competences to respond to the societal challenges, beyond merely the technical aspects linked to sports delivery.

Indeed, the document outlines the sought-after minimum skills and knowledge in the following areas of work: Safeguarding, welfare & integrity; Developing and managing positive, ethical and developmental relationships; General organisation; Sport delivery; and Monitoring and evaluation. The guidelines consider coaches in the wide sense of the term from voluntary coaches of U-8 football teams, through professional basketball coaches, to fitness trainers, and propose a number of

recommendations to, mainly, coach education providers to target all the above-mentioned skills and competences:

- The practice of coaching should be subject to the minimum competence requirements;
- The contribution of coaches to other areas than sport, should be highly recognised and valued;
- Wider use of blended learning methods should be promoted;
- Coach training and development should comprise a variety of learning opportunities including formal (courses), non-formal (clinics, seminars) and informal (observation, casual conversations etc.);
- A lifelong learning approach to coach education should be embraced.

To provide practical guidance and examples of good practices, the authors have developed a coaching competence table (Annex 1), gathered systematic information on the organisation of coach education in EU Member States (Annex 2), and assembled a number of case studies on coach education and development (Annex 3).

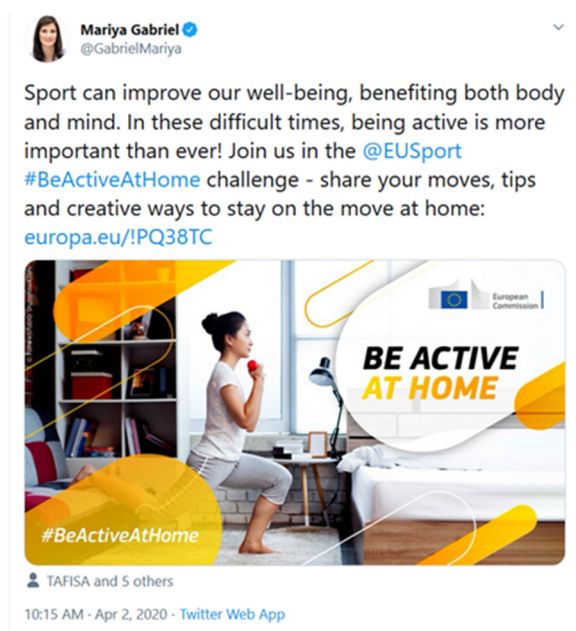
The experts further recommended the document to be translated in all official EU languages and that seminars and info days should be organised, ideally, in all Member States in association with coach education providers, sport organisations schools, and NGOs.

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The EOC EU Office and ENGSO played an active role in shaping the guidelines so that they are relevant for the organised sports movement, reflect the reality and diversity of systems and situations

in Europe, and take into account the role of volunteer coaches, which compose the vast majority of people active in coaching functions.

## European Week of Sport – BeActiveAtHome campaign launched



With the Covid-19 outbreak, self-isolation and teleworking have become a common aspect of our daily lives. No more access to communal exercise facilities, no exercising together with friends and team mates and even the walk to work has been eliminated. These restrictions not only prevent us from seeing colleagues, family and friends but also eliminates our physical movement, which is so important for our physical but also mental

wellbeing. To raise our heart rate, stay flexible and keep our overall physical activity level high, the European Commission and its sport unit have launched a [campaign to #BeActiveAtHome](#).

This campaign has its roots in [The European Week of Sport \(EWoS\)](#), which has grown significantly since it was launched in 2015. Since then every year, from 23 to 30 September, EWoS encourages citizens to #BeActive - by building healthier lifestyles that help participants to stay fit all year long. With the #BeActiveAtHome campaign all citizens are encouraged to also stay active at home during this extreme situation.

To become part of this movement and motivate others to also stay fit during the pandemic, share your moves, your physical exercising routine and tips on staying active on your social media channels. Post your content with the hashtag **#BeActiveAtHome** and mention **@EUSport** when you post it on Twitter and **@european\_youth\_eu** when using Instagram.

Important is to be creative and have fun. The best and funniest content will be shared on DG EAC social media accounts.

## The 2020 #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards

On 14 April, the Sport Unit of the European Commission launched the [2020 edition of #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards](#). This initiative was created to build an inclusive, united society through physical activity and celebrate the work of organisations that use sport to empower and integrate disadvantaged groups.

All types of sports organisations (public, private, commercial and not-for-profit) working with ethnic minorities, refugees, people with disabilities or any groups facing challenging circumstances and developing projects that focus on social inclusion are welcomed to apply. The Sport Unit will assess projects taking into account how they use sport to reinforce social inclusion according to three main criteria:

- relevance of the proposal
- quality of the proposal

- impact

Winning projects will be awarded €10,000 and have the unique opportunity to promote innovative ideas in order to inspire others and present their project to an audience of sport inclusion experts. The three winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in December 2020 in Brussels. Go to the [#BeInclusive page](#) and do not miss this opportunity. The application is open until 30 June, 12:00 Brussels time.



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## INTERNAL AND VISITS

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### EOC EU Commission meets online

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On Monday 20 April, Juri Tamm, Chair of the EOC EU Commission, gathered members of the Commission for an online meeting to discuss the developments and impact of the Covid-19 situation in their home countries as well as the future activities related to the work of the EOC EU Commission.

The meeting started with an overview of the situation in the 11 countries represented. The outcome was that, despite some minor differences, the general measures engaged by all countries are quite similar notably regarding the cancellations of sport events and the closing of sport infrastructures. Financial support mechanisms setting-up by governments and other actors were discussed but all participants expressed their concerns regarding the dramatic impact of the current situation on their organisations and on national federations, associations and clubs. Questions related to the training of athletes as well as their physical and mental health are also central in different countries.

In a more positive note, all participants explained that the situation obliged them to adapt and to rethink their working activities including their communication and cooperation with stakeholders. In this regard, several NOCs already organised innovative activities, such as online seminars, training and support, to their partners, members and athletes.

Following a short update on the Italian situation, Steve Scott, from the EOC secretariat, announced

that EYOF Banská Bystrica 2021 will be rescheduled to 2022 to avoid conflict with the Tokyo Olympic Games. Then, he described the survey launched by the EOC towards all 50 ENOCs to assess the impact of the current Covid-19 crisis on Olympic Movement stakeholders in Europe. The study focuses on four main areas: NOC management, athletes, events and support. Finally, he announced the organisation of an Executive Committee meeting of the EOC, on 29 April, via teleconference to discuss a number of important matters, in particular the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on sport and measures to deal with the fallout.

The next speaker was Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, who described the decisions taken at the EU level and the lobbying activities of the Office (more information on the relevant articles).

To conclude the discussion, participants exchanged on the development of more efficient e-governance tool at the EOC and NOCs level as well as on the possibility to set-up an ad-hoc Commission to deal with the impact of Covid-19 crisis. These topics will be central in the activities of the EOC EU Commission in the upcoming months.

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## PARTNERS' CORNER

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### Presentation of the CEV Erasmus+ Project "Play Volleyball, grow with it"

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In January 2019, the European Volleyball Confederation (CEV) started the implementation of the project "Play Volleyball, grow with it", which is supported by the Erasmus+ Sport programme. The project focuses on enhancing physical activity among pupils at the age between 12 and 14 years, by introducing them, within the school, a modified volleyball game.

The first year of the project was the occasion for the project consortium to create the educational materials for teachers and coaches. The leading partners in charge of developing the educational materials are the Sport University of Cologne and the Hecttepe University of Ankara, combining their theoretical experiences with the practical knowledge of the national Volleyball Federation partners (from Estonia, Finland, North Macedonia and Slovakia). The good cooperation between partners and the right balance in terms of academic and practical knowledge allowed the project consortium to create valuable materials, which will be disseminated not only to the official partners of the project but to all 56 National Federations that are members of CEV. All the developed materials are accessible on CEV website: <https://inside.cev.eu/en/development/cev-school-project/school-project-videos/>

Following the finalisation of the educational materials, the project entered into its second phase (year 2), focusing on upscaling the knowledge of the teachers and coaches. The most important task in the second year of the project will be to provide the necessary education to all coaches and teachers that will be involved in the project and make them feel comfortable to work with their pupils and players. While CEV will supervise the whole process, the leading role of this phase is on the national Volleyball Federations together with

the Universities involved in the project. One workshop will be organised in each country of the national Federations involved and will be conducted by the professors in combination with the local coaches.

On 6 March, the first workshop was held in Tallinn, Estonia and it was a great success as around 100 participants attended the event: <https://www.cev.eu/News.aspx?NewsID=30515&TagType=0&TagContent=0&ID=2,3,6,8,12&Paging=3&Sd=1/1/1900&Ed=1/1/1900>

Unfortunately, due to the outburst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the other workshops had to be put on hold until further notice, when the situation will allow project activities to restart. The workshops are supposed to build the structure for the phase 3 (year 3 of the project), which will see the implementation of the modified volleyball game within the schools with the support of the local volleyball clubs. The final aim of the project is to create a sustainable eco-system between the different actors, National Volleyball Federations, Volleyball Clubs a Schools.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Project website](#)



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## NEXT MONTHS

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Due to the Covid-19 restrictions no physical meetings or conferences are scheduled in May.

In the upcoming weeks the EOC EU Office intends to organise further webinars for its partners on the EU Work Plan for Sport, Good Governance and the accessible funding schemes for sport related to the Covid-19 crisis.