

## The House of European Sport

### Tweets of the month



#### **EU Sport**

@EuSport Oct 29

#ErasmusPlus Call for Proposals published with an expected €300 million budget increase or €3 billion for the programme in 2019! Press release:[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6170\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6170_en.htm) ...

Call:[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_.2018.384.01.0004.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2018:384:TOC](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2018.384.01.0004.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2018:384:TOC) ...

ProgrammeGuide:[http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/programme-guide\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/programme-guide_en) ...

#### **EOC EU Office**

@EOCEUOffice Oct 24

The @EOCmedia EU Commission meeting started with an introduction by Chair Juri Tamm and @EOCEUOffice Director @FolkerF. Discussions on the EU sport policy and Commion's activities are taking place now and in the afternoon we will welcome @lelosyv from @EuSport as a guest.

#### **POINTS Project**

@POINTS\_EU Oct 22

Thank you to all participants for the fruitful exchanges during the last @POINTS\_EU meeting. We are right on track to deliver high level educational seminars for Single Points of Contact for Integrity. More info:

<https://bit.ly/2AmOLuV> #sportintegrity @EuSport @EUErasmusPlus

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### EDITORIAL

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Dear readers,

The recent publication by football leaks has triggered a wide discussion in sport that goes far beyond football. The first question to be answered is, to which extent professional football is only commercially driven and has already lost the contact to their supporters. The role of the federations in this regard must be clearer defined in order to enable a fair competition and an equal playing field of all clubs. Rules and regulations that contribute to this objective, such as the prohibition of Third Party Ownership, the Financial Fair Play or robust protection schemes for minors are integral part of the governance of football and should be supported by all actors. However, if federations apply these rules in a different way from club to club, then they could not expect that the rules as such will be respected. Such a behaviour would be far away from good governance.

The already ongoing discussion on the future of the European Model of Sport definitely will get new actuality.

The relationship between professional clubs and respective federations is not only in football a challenging issue. FIBA Europe is already confronted with a group of strong clubs (ECA) that are organising the top club event in Europe. Now, ECA is not willing anymore to accept the calendar in basketball related to qualification matches of the national teams. This development is threatening and if further developed in this sense, could put an end to sport as it is organised today.

On 24 October, the European Commission has published the next call of the Erasmus+ Sport Programme. With a budget of 48.6 Mio € the call is the biggest ever. The deadline for applications is 4 April 2019 and the projects will start in January 2020. In 2020 the budget will even increase. In this regard, a stronger participation of the organised sport is desirable. Projects organised by federations or sport clubs are closer to the real needs of sport and are much more sustainable than others where projects are triggered by stakeholders outside sport.

Consequently, the organised Olympic Sport Movement should put more resources in the application and implementing of EU projects in order to receive the share of the funding the clubs and federations really deserve.

Enjoy your read,



Folker Hellmund  
Director

## EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

### New Call and 2019 Work Programme for the Erasmus+ Programme

On 24 October 2018, the European Commission announced the latest call for proposals under the Erasmus+ funding programme. Alongside the call for proposals, the European Commission also released the 2019 work programme for the implementation of Erasmus+ in 2019.

Erasmus+ is the European Commission programme for education, training, youth, and sport, with the programme providing funding for European citizens, enabling them to engage with international opportunities. A total of €48.6 million is budgeted for the sport strand of the programme in 2019, the largest allocation for sport in Erasmus+ history.

You can apply for funding from the sport strand of Erasmus+ in three related actions.

#### **Collaborative Partnerships**

This action offers the opportunity to develop, transfer and implement innovative practices in different areas relating to sport and physical activity between various organisations and actors in and outside sport. At least five organisations from five Programme countries must be involved in these projects. The maximum grant is 400,000€ and projects can last up to 36 months.

#### **Small Collaborative Partnerships**

Small Collaborative Partnerships will allow organisations to develop and reinforce networks, increase their capacity to operate at transnational level, and exchange good practices relating to sport and physical activity. At least three organisations from three Programme countries are required as partners in these projects. The maximum grants is 60,000€ and the project duration is up to 24 months.

#### **Not-For-Profit European Sport Events**

Not-for-profit European Sport events aim to support volunteering in sport, social inclusion through sport, gender equality in sport, health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA), as well as the implementation of the European Week of Sport (EWoS). For events related to the EWoS, the maximum grant is 300,000€, whereas for other events the awarded grant can be up to 500,000€. Eligible events are required to have participants from at least 10 different Programme Countries.

Also released in October was the 2019 annual work programme for the implementation of “Erasmus+”: the Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport. This document defines the implementation 2019 grants, procurements, financial instrument and other actions in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme.

Included within the document, an objective of the Erasmus+ programme is to develop the “*European dimension in sport, in particular grassroots sport, in line with the EU Work Plan for Sport*”.

In the field of sport, the specific objectives of the programme, which are also the funding priorities for the collaborative partnerships and small collaborative partnerships, will be pursued through actions that aim to:

- *tackle cross-border threats to the integrity of sport, such as doping, match-fixing and violence, as well as all kinds of intolerance and discrimination*
- *promote and support good governance in sport and dual careers of athletes;*

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- *promote voluntary activities in sport, together with social inclusion, equal opportunities and awareness of the importance of health-enhancing physical activity, through increased participation in, and equal access to sport for all.*

Applications for Erasmus+ Sport funding are required to be submitted by 4 April 2019.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Call for proposal](#)

[Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2019](#)

## Sport Intergroup Panel Session: Mental Health in Elite Sport

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On 10 October, the Sport Intergroup of the European Parliament held the meeting on 'Mental Health in Elite Sport'. MEP and Sport Intergroup Vice-Chair Bogdan Wenta made the introductory remarks and stated the goals of the panel session: defining the role of mental wellbeing in elite sport as well as identifying athletes' needs and professional mental health services to support them. Speakers at this meeting came from a wide variety of backgrounds and fields of expertise: two university professors, three elite athletes, and the Games and Performance Director of Team NL.

### Research on Mental Health in Elite Sport

Paul Wylleman, from Vrije University Brussels, highlighted the importance of the adoption of the Athletes' Declaration at the 133<sup>rd</sup> IOC Session in Buenos Aires (9 October 2018), which states that athletes have the right for "protection of mental and physical health, including a safe competition and training environment and protection from abuse and harassment". He also stressed that, due to its specificity, elite sport may have a great impact on athletes' mental health and emphasised that the challenge is to know how to prepare athletes and coaches to cope with such changes.

Peter Falkai, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München, stressed that the social support that athletes and coaches receive is key in order to get through difficult periods. He explained that practicing sport increases the plasticity of the brain and backed his statement with a research study on people suffering from schizophrenia and how physical exercise improved their mental condition.

### Roundtable: athletes' personal stories

In a roundtable moderated by Frederic Destrebecq, Executive Director of European Brain Council, three elite athletes shared their personal stories and experiences on coping with challenging situations.

Lisette Theunissen, Paralympic swimmer for The Netherlands, explained that she suffers from a progressive hereditary motor and sensory neuropathies (HMSN) disease, which has recently made her put an end to her career. Having won gold in the London Paralympic Games, she began to suffer from mental health issues towards the end of her career when her degree of independence continued to decrease.

Jessie Barr, Olympic 400m hurdles runner from Ireland, is currently completing her PhD on the stigma surrounding mental health in elite sport. Whilst not been personally affected by mental health problems, she described how her injuries prevented her from competing at the London Olympics, and how she dealt with the situation.

Chris Kerr, Gaelic Football player, battled with mental health issues after the death of his father, which led him to fall out of love with the sport he once loved. He sought counselling at the time and now helps other people break the stigma attached to mental health.

### Progress made and Recommendations

Maurtis Hendriks, Dutch Olympic Committee Performance Director, explained the holistic approach followed at TeamNL to deal with mental

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health in their Olympic, Paralympic and Non-Olympic top level athletes. For that purpose, they have centres across the country to support athletes on a day-to-day basis, including mental health support.

Some of the recommendations that were made at the end of the session include ensuring the protection of mental health of athletes, coaches and staff, developing initiatives to enhance mental health awareness in elite sport, providing appropriate professional services and exchanging best practices

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## Parliament: Sport Intergroup Panel Session on Child Trafficking in Sport

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On 16 October 2018, the European Parliament Intergroup on Sport hosted a high level panel session under the title “Time for Europe to stand up against child trafficking in sport”. #NOTINOURGAME. Vice President of the European Parliament’s Sport Intergroup, MEP Bogdan Wenta, and the sessions moderator, BBC European Correspondent, Damian Grammaticas welcomed and introduced the issue. Acknowledging the many important stakeholders present at the session, they called on the session participants to express their opinions, share their ideas, and make contact with each other in order to tackle child trafficking in sport.

The session was organised in cooperation with Mission 89 who aim to stop child trafficking in sport. Lerina Bright, Mission 89 Executive Director, kicked off the discussion by stressing that is not just a sport issue, this is a global issue and a cross-sectoral approach is needed to stop child trafficking across the world.

To provide the group with information about the current situation, a research report under the title “Contextualising Child Trafficking in Football: Forms, Factors, and Dynamics” was presented. One of the report’s main outcomes was the form of trafficking *through* football, whereby children ultimately do not get employed by football clubs, compared to trafficking *in* football where children do get a contract at a football club. This highlighted one element of the issue in which football was being used as tool to exploit children and young adolescents (as well as their families).

Fake and devious agents are making money under the false pretences of a better life in Europe for these teenagers and their families.

Mission 89 then displayed a short video, which focused on Matthew Edafe who was trafficked as a teenager. Providing a personal perspective of someone that has been through the trafficking process, Matthew called for a coordinated solution in order to combat child trafficking in sport.

The session was then opened to the wide range of high level panellists, including representatives from FIFA, The Premier League, Interpol, and the Council of Europe to name a few. Several thematic areas were discussed, including the role of international and continental sport federations in regulating agents, the role of elite sports men and women in the education of vulnerable children and families, as well as the trafficking that occurs around the whole in the industries that support the world of sport i.e. merchandise manufacturing.

Concluding the session, the group shared their own best practices on how to combat child trafficking in sport, and the ways in which all types of sport organisations can contribute to the cause. A cross-sectoral approach was once again called upon, with the common consensus that the EU institutions should be somewhat engaged in tackling this disturbing yet somewhat underground issue.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Mission 89 website](#)



## The 2018 BeActive Awards Recognise Commitments to Promote Physical Activity and Wellbeing

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As part of the European Week of Sport (EWoS) 2018, the #BeActive Awards Gala was held on 17 October to announce the [BeActive Awards](#) winners of this year's edition. These awards seek to recognise candidates' strong commitment to fostering sport and wellbeing in their organisations and local communities. This year, a high-level jury nominated nine candidates, three per each of the categories of awards (education, workplace, and local hero), from whom three winners (one per category) were then chosen.

### Education BeActive Awards

The initiatives of the Education awards nominees were aimed at engaging children in physical activity and making them discover different sport disciplines. [The winner was Jyränkö School from Heinola \(Finland\)](#), which already in 2005 started to increase physical activity into school days. The school, rewarded by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture as the School of the Year in 2013, has managed to change the structure of the school day in order to incorporate active breaks during school hours. This initiative is in line with the recommendations made by the WHO that were included in the [Physical Activity Factsheets](#) released last month, which state that active breaks during school lessons contribute to promote physical activity among children by breaking up long periods of sitting. The results obtained at Jyränkö School have been so positive in terms of helping pupils focus more on teaching, reducing bullying at school and making them more active after school, that its methods have been spread widely in Finland and also outside Finland.

### Workplace BeActive Awards

The three finalists under this category awards came from Belgium, Croatia and Estonia and suggested different ideas to be active and healthy

at the workplace. For example, by creating sports clubs, organising annual sport events, providing healthy meals, offering nutrition workshops, organising cycling, skiing and hiking trips for the employees, among other things. The winner was [Davo Communications \(Belgium\)](#), a small IT company which has introduced some changes to the work day structure to make the employees more active, for example by placing water fountains and printing machines far away, organising active team building days or forbidding employees to be seated for more than 30 minutes. This initiative has managed to change the habits of many of Davo's employees.

### Local Hero BeActive Awards

The Local Hero awards recognise the efforts made by individuals to improve the healthy lifestyles of their communities. The finalists, from Denmark, Georgia and Germany, came up with ideas that ranged from organising extra-curricular activities for children and afternoon running for parents and teachers, to involving disadvantaged groups and refugee teenagers in sports (mainly rugby) and other health and physical activities such as first aid and hiking education. [The Local Hero award winner, Corinna Saric \(Germany\), is the managing director of "Aktion Pink"](#) and since 2013 has organised charity runs (Race for Survival), with the aim to raise awareness about breast cancer by running campaigns in companies and organising healthy days promoting healthy diet and lifestyle. Although this initiative focuses on ill people and their environment, it also targets the general public. Congratulations to the 2018 BeActive winners but also to the nominees for their great ideas!

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## FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND STUDIES

### POINTS Project Consortium Continues to Develop Educational Programme for SPOCs

On 17 and 18 October, the fourth meeting of the POINTS project was held by the European Olympic Committees (EOC) EU Office, in Brussels. The aim of the meeting was to continue the development of an Educational Programme for Single Points of Contact for Integrity (SPOCs).

EOC EU Office Director, Folker Hellmund, opened the meeting by welcoming representatives from 14 partner organisations and providing an overview of different integrity activities at national and European level. Then, POINTS Project Manager, Valentin Capelli, continued with the latest activities held in the frame of the project.

Following a presentation of the state of play regarding the Guidelines for SPOCs - the final version should be ready by mid-November and made available for the wide public - this meeting contributed to give practical information on the educational programme that Single Points of Contact from partner organisations will follow in the first half of 2019 as well as to prepare the main components of these activities. Another topic discussed by partners was the nomination of SPOCs within their organisations. Finally, the project management announced that the work is ongoing to update the SIGGS self-evaluation tool which should be ready for a test phase during the first months of 2019.

#### **Key elements on Seminar 1: Competition Manipulation**

The first day of the meeting introduced basic aspects of the seminar on Competition Manipulation, which will take place in February 2019, in INTERPOL headquarters, in Lyon, France. The goal of this seminar is to provide participants with a solid understanding of the key



elements of Competition Manipulation and to make them think about ways that they, as SPOCs, can handle potential situations in this area. After active discussions about their roles as SPOCs and having agreed on the key aspects, this first day ended with the SIGGS working group, which addressed the update of the SIGGS self-evaluation tool.

#### **Key elements on Seminar 2: Good Governance**

The second day of the meeting continued to develop the specific objectives of the future seminars, starting with the Seminar 2 on Good Governance, which will be held in April, in Germany. The aim of this seminar is to provide participants with a solid understanding of the key elements of Good Governance and to help them create a connection between good governance and the role of a SPOC. For this purpose, they will be made familiar with the tools at their disposal to support their work. In the afternoon, participants discussed the ways in which some of the practical elements of the educational seminars would take place, including case studies, group exercises and practical simulations.

#### **Key elements on Seminar 3: SPOC role and competencies**

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The second half of the second day was devoted to the responsibilities and competencies that SPOCs should have to fulfil their roles effectively. The main elements that were discussed in preparation for seminar 3 were knowledge, skills and abilities. Participants were asked to brainstorm the competencies they think that a SPOC should

have. The brainstorming was then followed by a common discussion on practical ways to train and test these competencies.

The EOC EU Office would like to thank all the participants for their intensive contribution during the meeting.

## ESSA-Sport European Online Employer Skills Survey – Fill in the Questionnaire on the Needed Workforce Development in the Sport Sector

On 20 October 2018, the European Observatoire of Sport and Employment (EOSE) launched the first EU-wide skills survey covering the sport and physical activity sector, as part of the European Sector Skills Alliance for Sport and Physical Activity (ESSA-Sport) project.

The main aim of this Erasmus+ funded project is to “*deliver the first Europe-wide Employment and Skills map for the whole sport and physical activity sector*”. Composed of 19 national organisations, and 5 pan-European organisations across 18 European countries, the project hopes to “*Review and modernise training and qualifications and re-skill the workforce in the sport and physical activity sector*”.

In order to ensure its relevance to the situation, the project has three main components:

- **Statistical Analysis** - Project partners will work with member states to carry out research in their country
- **Direct Consultation with Employers** - National research will then be complimented by the European Employers Survey, which is focused on employers in the sport and physical activity sector
- **Sector Skills Partnerships** - focusing on the implementation of a ‘bottom-up’ approach, ensuring national issues are reflected in the recommendations and solutions

Taking a closer look at the survey itself, the aim is to gather employer views on the realities and challenges facing the sport and physical activity sector. The ever changing nature of this sector means that acquiring up-to-date information from employers is a priority. By completing the questionnaire, organisations will make an invaluable contribution to the future of skills and workforce development in the sport and physical activity sector in Europe.

Split into 5 sections, the survey focuses on the;

- Basic information about organisation
- Employment and skills in your organisation
- Recruitment of paid staff and volunteers in your organisation
- Key Issues - Working in sport and physical activity
- Workforce development and training in your organisation

EOC EU Office invites sport organisations to fill in the questionnaire to give your opinion on the needed skills of the workforce in the sport sector in future. Furthermore, sport organisations are also asked to share the questionnaire with your own organisation’s partner network, in order to enhance the outcomes of the project. Available in 18 different European languages (including English), the survey should take a little more than 20 minutes to complete.



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Find the survey in your language [here](#).

Once the survey data has been analysed at both EU and national level, it will be presented and discussed both in national stakeholder groups, and in the first EU Skills Summit for the sport and physical activity sector, planned for September 2019.

This will contribute to the production of a comprehensive EU Report based on 28 national reports, with an action plan and recommendations for future collaboration.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[ESSA Sport European website](#)

## INTERNAL AND VISITS

### First Meeting of the New EOC EU Commission in Brussels

On 24 October 2018, the EOC EU Commission met at the EOC EU Office in Brussels, discussing sport-related matters within the framework of EU. This was the first meeting of the new EOC EU Commission, following the EOC elections in Zagreb last November.

The meeting brought together members of the Commission, namely Juri Tamm (Chair, Estonia), Niels Nygaard (EOC ExCom liaison member, Denmark), Rusiko Aptsiauri (Georgia), Matthias Van Baelen (Belgium), Daniel Dax (Luxembourg), Ihor Hotsul (Ukraine), Olga Piperidou (Cyprus), Sasho Popovski (FYROM), Izet Radjo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Joao Pedro Lopes da Silva (Portugal) as EOC Athletes Commission representative, along with representatives of the EOC EU Office. The meeting was organised in three main parts: an update on EU policy fields, a discussion on the future activities of the EOC EU Commission, and a discussion with Yves Le Lostecque - Head of the Sport Unit, European Commission.

#### **Update on EU policy fields**

The first topic that was addressed after the general introduction was the EU elections of the next European Parliament in May 2019. In addition, the group discussed different options to improve the use of the network of NOCs to influence EU decision making.

An overview of the current negotiations at the EU level regarding the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 was then provided, stressing the work done at the office to promote sport in the different financial programmes, notably Erasmus+, but also ERDF, ESF+, CAP, InvestEU, LIFE, IPA III and NDICI.



Other relevant topics for sport were presented and/or discussed, such as the European Sport Model, the EU Competition Policy, the VAT Directive, sport legal issues (Rule 40 of the IOC Charter, CAS rulings), the WHO study on physical activity in Europe, VISA policy, and European Week of Sport beyond borders, among other things.

#### **Discussion with Yves Le Lostecque**

Yves Le Lostecque started his presentation with an update on the negotiations for the next generation of Erasmus programme. He mentioned the proposal of the Commission to double the current budget as well as to open the possibility to use mobility activities in the sport chapter.

The participants raised the low share of sport organisations involved in the projects as well as the topic of involvement of non-EU countries, stressing that sport in Europe is organised in around 50 countries and not only EU countries. Yves Le Lostecque said that he is aware of the situation and that for budgetary reasons the Commission did not propose to open mobility for non-EU countries but that the Parliament and the Member States could still take a different decision.

#### **Objectives of the EOC EU Commission**

On the basis of the recommendations made by the previous EOC EU Commission, as well as the current EU policy agenda, the members of the

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Commission agreed on the main objectives they wanted to follow for the 4 years term:

- Make sure the voice of the EOC EU Commission is heard at EU level
- Better use of the NOCs network to influence EU policies
- Better use EU financial resources by NOCs including for non-EU countries

As a first step to implement these objectives, the EOC EU Commission has prepared a questionnaire for the NOCs, which will be distributed at the EOC General Assembly in Marbella.

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## PARTNERS' CORNER

### FIBA Europe's TIME-OUT project successfully educates 75 former basketball players

TIME-OUT was launched as a one-off project at FIBA Women's EuroBasket in October 2017. FIBA Europe and its national federations unveiled the initiative, which assists elite European basketball players (who are at the end of their playing careers) make the transition from sport into new employment.

This came on the back of recommendations by the European Commission on dual careers and the reintegration of professional sportspersons into the labour market. FIBA Europe's TIME-OUT project was made possible thanks to the co-funding provided by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme.

A total of 75 students from 36 European nations undertook courses including Leadership and Management (from Northumbria University), Talented Athlete Lifestyle Support (TALS) from the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) and the FIBA Manager Qualification.

The TIME-OUT project came into being early in 2017, when European national federations nominated one female and one male player each to reflect the parity of basketball. Prior to embarking on their chosen curriculum, all players developed their English in order to receive as much from the project as possible.

The courses were made to suit the players and their prior level of university education. For example, those that read Northumbria University's Leadership and Management course were split into two groups: ones who had experience of higher education and those who had none.

All 75 students succeeded in their undertaking of the FIBA Manager Qualification course, while 29



of them also performed with flying colours in the Talented Athlete Lifestyle Support (TALS) from TASS.

A total of 50 graduated from a Newcastle Business School course in Leadership and Management from Northumbria University. Of them, at least 25 will look to pursue master's degrees from the university.

Graduate Kieron Achara of Scotland said: "It's been a great journey for 14 months. I didn't know what I was coming into to start and it's been very challenging at times but the connections I've made here, the friendships I've built here and the learning, it's all been a phenomenal ride and I really hope in the future there's some other opportunities for other participants because I know it's been very beneficial to my career."

Graduate Anna Barthold of Sweden said: "We can all sum it up in one word really - amazing. I think everybody here is grateful for having been a part of this experience. It's been a year full of challenges and hard work but when it comes down to it, it's been eye-opening for all of us."

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FIBA Europe's project team is currently working on the legacy programme of the project and plans are made to continue the support for players in their preparation for post-playing career.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Time-Out Project](#)

[Leadership and Management \(from Northumbria University\)](#)

[Talented Athlete Lifestyle Support \(TALS\) from the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme \(TASS\)](#)

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## New Leaders Programme Puts IOC Gender Equality Recommendations into Practice

NOC of Finland is starting a new value-based sport leadership programme in Europe. New Leaders Programme is a joint educational effort of the International Olympic Committee and European Olympic Committees, run by the Finnish Olympic Committee. The call for applications was closed by the end of October and the number of interested – more than 50 applications received – showed that new type of leadership programme is needed. The programme encourages people to dream, speak up and act as game-changers shaping the future of sport.

The programme consists of three workshops and a closing conference in the period of one year. Co-operation partners include amongst others NOC of Lithuania and NOC of Ireland. Topics of strategic leadership, communications, public speaking, lobbying and conflict management will be viewed through the lenses of equality, sustainability, human rights and ethics. In addition, contend is designed to implement the IOC Gender Equality Recommendations into action.

A total of 30 European participants will be selected, representing both women and men and supported by 30 personal mentors from the top of

the sporting world. The names of the selected game-changers will be published after the European Olympic Committees' General Assembly. Participants will design concrete action plans on a personal and organisational level implementing the [IOC Gender Equality Recommendations](#) into action. Strong tools for goal setting and strategic planning facilitate their execution and individual learning process.

The programme is the legacy project of the 2017 IOC Women and Sport World Trophy Winner **Birgitta Kervinen**. She says: "Without dreams there are no visions. Without visions there is no action, and without action there is no change. By empowering and equipping leaders with strong tools to think, learn and act we can transform the sport movement."

Following the European launch, the educational concept of New Leaders programme will have a global reach as it is implemented in other continents in the course of 2019 - 2020. With a worldwide scope the programme aims to create a network of far-reaching Olympic game-changers.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[New Leaders Programme](#)



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### Handbook for Olympic Festival Organisers Released

On 25 October 2018, the main output of the [Sport Parks Inspired by the Olympics](#) project – interactive online handbook aimed at supporting National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and other sport organisation in developing and organising Olympic Festivals in their countries - was released. The interactive tool was officially launched at the Global Sport Events Go Local seminar which was hosted in Prague by the project coordinator – the Czech Olympic Committee – and which attracted more than 90 participants from 13 countries, including representatives of 13 NOCs and the IOC. The seminar has marked the end of 2 years of hard work and dedication of all the experts and organisations involved.

The Handbook is accessible upon registration on <https://handbook.sportparks.com/>. It provides NOCs and other interested organisations with recommendations, guidelines, case studies and examples of good practice to guide them through the complex organisational process of Olympic Festivals.

Olympic Festivals are a new asset of the International Olympic Committee. They are hosted by NOCs in their countries during Olympic Games and their objective is to engage the local population in sport and Olympism. The Czech Olympic Committee, coordinator of the Sport Parks project, is one of the leading and most experienced NOCs in hosting Olympic Festivals having first hosted one back in 2014 during the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

Speaking following the launch of the Handbook, President of the Czech Olympic Committee, Jiri Kejval said: *“We have come a long way since the first Olympic Festival at Letná in 2014. I am very*

*happy that, thanks to excellent partners and the support of the International Olympic Committee and other organisations, we can now pass on our know-how to the world. The handbook provides detailed instructions and information for those who might be interested in organising Olympic Festivals. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to it.”*

But this is not where the story ends. As the rich, interactive and insightful panel discussions featured at the Global Sport Events Go Local seminar showed, and as the commitment of all the stakeholders demonstrates, the Olympic Festivals concept and with it the Handbook for their organisers is headed to a bright future.

The Sport Parks project may be approaching its end, but the Olympic Festivals are just at their beginning. See you in 2020, 2022...

*The Sport Parks project is co-financed by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union and is supported by the International Olympic Committee.*



#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press release of the seminar](#)

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## NEXT MONTH

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- 08-11 November** EOC General Assembly, Marbella
- 16-17 November** European Sport Platform, Budapest
- 21-22 November** EOC EU Office Special Competence Seminar, Brussels
- 26-27 November** Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council, Brussels
- 27 November** #Beinclusive EU sport awards ceremony, Brussels
- 04-05 December** Erasmus+ Sport Cluster meeting on "The Integrity of Sport", Brussels
- 10 December** EU Presidency Sports Conference, Vienna
- 11-12 December** Informal meeting of EU Sports Directors, Vienna