

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2021



EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



EU
Office



Our European Sport Model is under threat today. It is losing ground to the purely profit-oriented goals of commercial sport providers and investors. If everything is only looked at from a business perspective, then the social mission of sport is lost.- Thomas Bach, IOC President



9:49 AM · Apr 20, 2021

204 20 Copy link to Tweet



Thanks @EuSport for good opportunity to join #EuropeanWeekOfSport Seminar and to share ideas how to attract young people to practise sport.

@iocmedia, @OlympicUA have great examples and initiatives.

To be healthy is the main value for everyone!

@EOCEUOffice @worldolympians



9:56 AM · Apr 19, 2021

26 Copy link to Tweet

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



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IBU President Olle Dahlin

"I am committed to developing European policies that help sport in Europe grow stronger, more inclusive and accessible to all."

Full interview on page 5

FACTS & FIGURES



NEW TEAM MEMBER !

The EOC EU Office welcomes Carlotta Giussani as its new EU Funding Officer !

See the article on page 19



Conference on the Future of Europe



- 6,812 participants 🧑
- 10 topics
- 1,358 ideas 💡
- 4 sport related events organised
- 19 ideas shared mention sport 🏆

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INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The Olympic Games in Tokyo are fast-approaching and despite all the challenges that the media has been reporting on, there is at least one positive trend regarding the vaccination of athletes. With certain vaccines now available, an increasing number of countries are deciding to vaccinate their Olympic teams. The athletes have rightly pointed out that the risk of infection would otherwise be incalculable, and those vaccinated early already have considerable advantages in terms of their preparation for the Games.

The discussion on the establishment of a European Super League in football, which was pursued by a number of the most successful European football clubs, collapsed like a house of cards within 48 hours. Rarely has a sports policy decision triggered such immense reactions from politicians, players and fans in such a short time. It is pointless to speculate on what ultimately tipped the scales in favour of the (temporary) failure of the project. However, it has become clear that fans have accepted the commercialisation of football as such, but don't want this to prevail over the sporting mode of the competitions. Closed leagues and wild cards are not compatible with open competitions, nor with the proven system of promotion and relegation, let alone with the values of the European Sports Model. Against this background, UEFA should ask itself whether its reform proposals stand up to these requirements. The idea of guaranteeing non-qualified clubs' permission to play in the Champions League on the basis of previous success certainly does not fit into the picture.

By the end of April, the EU member states were asked to submit their national plans for the implementation of the "Recovery and Resilience Facility" to the EU Commission. The programme, which focuses in particular on the environment and digitalisation, provides a total of €750 billion in grants and loans. A first review of the national plans has shown that a number of countries such as France, Belgium or Spain have included sport in their plans, thus recognising its socio-economic importance for the development of their economies. This is a welcomed signal and will hopefully lead to a stronger consideration of sport in the (regional) implementation of the Structural Funds.

The first call for proposals of the Erasmus+ Sport Programme in the new funding period is underway but poses enormous challenges for applicants due to the short application deadline (20 May). Since the availability of the application forms was also delayed, the EU Commission is considering to postpone the initial deadline. The quality of applications would certainly increase as a result of such a decision and applications from the organised sport would be facilitated.

Stay healthy and all the best for 2021!



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



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Olle Dahlin has been the IBU President since 2018. He was first elected to the IBU Executive Board and served as the IBU Vice President Development in the period of 2014-2018, his first term. He is a member of the Swedish Olympic Committee Executive Board.

1. Dear President, in April 2021 IBU has become an official partner of the EOC EU Office, which we highly appreciate. What is the main reasoning behind this strategic decision?

While the IBU is a global International Federation, our operations are based out of Europe, in Austria, and a significant number of our events are held on the continent. We therefore recognise the importance of having a good understanding of European legislation and the impact it can have on our sport.

Our decision to partner with the EOC EU Office was made because we appreciate that you have a huge amount of knowledge in this area that we can learn from. We also want to make sure we are well informed and able to adapt quickly to new and evolving situations as early as possible. With your extensive network we hope to be able to better coordinate and consult with experts in this field.

2. The Biathlon season has just ended, what is your personal résumé with regard to the organisation of outdoor sport events under Covid-19 conditions?

Our season finished in March and, while there were of course major challenges presented by COVID-19, the season was a great success. By working in partnership with the whole biathlon family, we were able to deliver thrilling entertainment to biathlon fans all around the world. We delivered 100% of our planned competitions.

Of course, protecting the health and wellbeing of everyone involved in the events was our first priority and we worked hard with medical experts and local authorities to ensure we developed and implemented effective COVID-19 protocols.

But we were able to show that you can host safe and successful sports events outdoors, even under COVID-19 conditions.

It was particularly important that we managed to organise safe sport last season, not just for our athletes and for the sport, but also for our fans. We know that sport plays an important role in people's lives and at this time, more than ever, watching our athletes compete provided our fans with much-needed joy and entertainment.

3. All outdoor sports and in particular winter sports are highly dependent on weather conditions. To what extent climate change already impacted your competitions and athletes' preparation? What measures do you take to help mitigating and to adapt to this impact and changes in your organisation?

Climate change is something that affects us all. Of course, as a sport which relies on snow and cold weather, biathlon is more affected but everyone in the sports community and wider society has a role to play in combatting climate change.

Establishing biathlon as a leading sport in promoting and upholding the highest standards across all forms of sustainability, including of course environmental sustainability, is a key part of our Strategic Plan, Target 26.

Last year, we launched our Sustainability Strategy, which provides the roadmap for the IBU's ten-year Sustainability Strategy 2020-2030.

Climate is one of the five focus areas in our Sustainability Policy and describes our commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of biathlon with the aim of becoming climate neutral by 2030 and climate positive by 2034. We also joined the United Nations Sport for Climate Action Framework in June of last year.

The concrete action we have taken in the fight against climate change was recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Worldwide Olympic Partner Dow as we received the IOC-DOW award at the IOC IF Sustainability Session last November. This year we have launched the first ever Biathlon Climate Challenge.

4. The "Green Deal" initiative is currently one of the main political projects of the European Commission. Which activities of the Commission or European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) are affecting you directly and what is your strategy in this regard?

Reducing the impact of our events and our sport on the environment are two pillars of the IBU's Sustainability Strategy. This includes the use of fluorine wax and lead bullets.

The IBU is committed to becoming a fluor-free sport. We have been working on methods to detect the presence of fluorine wax on skis. This requires field tests and scientific calibration to guarantee reliable tests and thus fair competitions.

The other area is the potential EU lead ban in wetlands. The ban is not aimed specifically at closed ranges such as those used in biathlon but we are ready to make adjustments, especially in the collection of used lead bullets and residuals to prevent interaction of the toxic elements with nature and animals. We are working closely with the IOC and cooperating with the ECHA on this.

5. You have been elected for a four-year term in 2018 amidst a number of governance issues at IBU. How far has your organisation gotten with regard to good governance reforms and what does still remain to be done?

I am very proud of the work the IBU Executive Board and I, and the whole biathlon family, have done over the last two and a half years.

The problems biathlon was facing when I became President are well documented but through our collective hard work we have gone from a federation in crisis to a federation leading at the forefront of good governance.

Together with independent, international experts we have:

developed a new state-of-the art Constitution, which is in line with international best practice; created the Biathlon Integrity Unit, an operationally independent unit within the IBU, which handles all integrity-related matters in biathlon; appointed an External Review Commission to conduct a completely independent investigation into all anti-doping, compliance, ethical and disciplinary matters; and made our Athletes Committee chair a voting member of the IBU Executive Board.

The EOC EU Office is thanking Mr Olle Dahlin for his interview and contribution to its monthly report.



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

European reactions to the football European Super League proposal

On 19th April, a group of twelve football clubs from England, Spain and Italy (AC Milan, Arsenal FC, Atlético de Madrid, Chelsea FC, FC Barcelona, FC Internazionale Milano, Juventus FC, Liverpool FC, Manchester City, Manchester United, Real Madrid CF and Tottenham Hotspur) announced the creation a new football European Super League (ESL). The idea was to create a new competition, parallel to UEFA competitions, and one which would operate beyond the authority of UEFA. The functioning of this new competition would guarantee the long-term participation of the founding clubs with a huge impact on the sporting merits, the openness of competitions and the attractiveness of the national leagues.

The announcement caused many negative reactions, bringing the European Sport Model and the compatibility with EU law to the heart of the conversation:

At the [Opening Session of the 45th UEFA Congress](#), the IOC shared its stance with President Bach describing the European Sport Model as “under threat” and “challenged by a purely profit-driven approach ignoring the intrinsic values and social mission of sport”. Equally, the EOC [expressed its position](#) as standing in solidarity with the IOC and UEFA, as well as other defenders of the European Sport Model.

The voice of the European Commission was also heard during its [daily press briefing](#). A spokesperson recalled the Commission’s attachment to the European Sport Model and highlighted its main principles: autonomy, openness, solidarity, and interdependence between international sport federations. On his side, Commission Vice President Margaritis Schinas [stated](#) that he would “personally very much regret” the creation of a semi-closed Super League while Commissioner Mariya Gabriel [tweeted](#) that it “would inflict irreversible damage”. European Parliament President David Sassoli also took the opportunity to [tweet](#) that he “stands against football becoming the preserve of a wealthy few”.

Faced with political pressure and the emergence of potential repercussions from [UEFA](#), [the English FA](#), [RFEF](#), [FIGC](#), [the Premier League](#), [LaLiga](#), [Lega Serie A](#), [FIFA](#) and even from national governments – not to mention backlash from supporters around the world – it comes as no surprise that English and Italian founding clubs have since withdrawn from the ESL plan.

The EOC EU Office will continue its active work on the promotion and protection of the European Sport Model towards all European actors.

Member States start submitting their individual Recovery and Resilience Facility Plans

30 April marked the formal deadline for Member States to submit the final version of their national [Recovery and Resilience Facility \(RRF\)](#), “a temporary recovery instrument that allows the Commission to raise funds to help repair the immediate economic and social damage brought about by the coronavirus pandemic”.

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is the key instrument at the heart of [Next Generation EU](#) recovery plan. The RRF will make €672.5 billion in loans and grants available to support reforms and investments undertaken by member states. Member states are asked to centre their plans around certain flagship areas for investments and reforms in order to foster a green and digital transition. Each RRF plan has to spend at least 37% for climate investments as well as at least 20% for digital transition.

As of Monday 3 May, the Commission received various plans including [Belgium](#), [Spain](#), [Slovakia](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Portugal](#), [Denmark](#) and [Greece](#). The Commission will assess submitted plans within the next two months, allowing the Council to approve these plans by July at the latest. EU member states should receive the first 13% of their respective financial envelop before the end of the summer.

Some countries already published the RRF plans, they had submitted to the Commission. France and Germany held a [common press conference](#) and publicly presented their plans on 27 May 2021.

Although sport is not named as one of the general flagship areas, it is good to note that some member states include sport in their recovery plans. For example, the French plan has a sub-chapter entitled [“Creating jobs for young people in sport”](#), which is backed by a distinct financial budget. The Spanish plan includes a subchapter on the [“promotion of the culture and sports industries”](#) as a structural reform for sustainable and inclusive growth. The German and Portuguese Plans do not have specific sub-chapters on sport, but still mention sport as an instrument to achieve specific goals such as integration and early childhood education.

Thus, it is worth checking to which extent sport is included in the various national plans or not. Even if sport is not, or not prominently, mentioned, it will be important to promote the contributions of sport to the achievement of the programme's objectives when implementing the funding. For instance, the energy-efficient renovation of sports facilities can contribute to the flagship area of climate-friendly buildings. Sports federations should therefore closely follow the national implementation guidelines in order to benefit from possible funding.



This fits with the fact, that the European Commission's SHARE-initiative has published a valuable [background paper](#) on how the sport sector can possibly benefit from Next Generation EU funding. The document describes all NGEU programmes, including not only the RFF but also REACT-EU and the Just Transition Fund.

The EOC EU-Office together with other sport stakeholders in the SHARE initiative advocated for the inclusion of sport in the national RFF in order to acknowledge the role of sport and physical activity in a sustainable and healthy recovery process from the COVID-19 pandemic. The position paper can be found on the [office's website](#).



FURTHER INFORMATION

[Overview on the RRF, including links to all national plans already submitted](#)

[Spanish RRF](#)

[German RRF](#)

[French RRF](#)

Online piracy of sport broadcasts: EP JURI Committee adopts report and paves the way for plenary vote

On 13 April, European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee JURI adopted its report on the "Challenges of sports events' organisers in the digital environment" with 18 votes in favour and 6 against. Previously in January, the EP's CULT Committee had already adopted its opinion on the report that aims to tackle online piracy of sport broadcasts.

With both Committees having delivered their contributions, the report by rapporteur Angel Dzhambazki (ECR, BG) is now ready for adoption in the EP plenary. The vote in plenary is likely to take place on 18 May.

From a sports perspective, the adoption in the JURI Committee is positive news, as it raises hopes that the existing framework on enforcement of intellectual property rights for live sport events will be improved. The value of sport events almost entirely depends on their live broadcast, which is why immediate action is needed. Thus, the report adopted by JURI states that online intermediaries would have to remove or disable illegal broadcasts "immediately, or as fast as possible, and in any event no later than within 30 minutes of the receipt of the notification from right holders or a certified trusted flagger".

In this regard, the report urges the European Commission to propose concrete measures specifically adapted to live sports events, allowing for the immediate removal of, or the disabling of access to, content without blocking the legal live broadcast.

MEPs also underline that legal sport content offers should be better promoted and made easier to find online for consumers, as piracy streams are not only illegal but also bear the risk of malware, data theft or credit card fraud.

The rapporteur Angel Dzhambazki (ECR, BG) said: "Online piracy of live sport events is a major challenge faced by sport events' organisers. It is important to enable an immediate and workable tool for the enforcement of rights for live sport events, including the possibility of real-time blocking of access to or removal of unauthorised online live sport content. The liability for illegal broadcasting of sports events rests with the providers of streams and platforms and not with fans and consumers, who often unintentionally come across illegal online content."



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The full text of the report adopted in JURI is expected to be published soon, on the EP's website.

In general, the European Parliament wants to use the own-initiative report in question to call on the Commission to take legislative action in the fight against online piracy of sporting events. To achieve this, the next step is to successfully adopt the report in the plenary of the Parliament. Together with other sports stakeholders, the EOC EU Office will advocate for the adoption of the report.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Procedure File: Challenges of sport events' organisers in the digital environment](#)

[EP press release: Tackling digital piracy of live sport events and protecting organisers](#)

[EP press release: Stop illegal live sports streaming, urge MEPs](#)

[Statement by Adrián VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA \(Renew, ES\), JURI Chair](#)

Conference on the Future of Europe: new interactive multilingual digital platform

On 19 April 2021, the new interactive multilingual digital platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) was launched.

As the CoFoE's central hub, the platform offers different ways for Europeans to get involved in the European democratic process and share their ideas directly through the platform, or during labelled events mapped on it.

An intuitive and easy-to-use platform

When entering the platform, three options appear:

- '[Attend an event near you](#)', leading to an online map identifying all in-person events labelled by the CoFoE and taking place in different European languages;
- '[Share your ideas](#)' on chosen subjects among a list of targeted topics. Under a public chat format, participants can share their own ideas and receive endorsements and/or answers from others. It is also possible to follow some specific discussions or topics and receive notifications each time someone take part in the public debate;
- '[Organise your event](#)', offering access to guides that will help to organising successful events and contributing to the CoFoE objectives. Some tips on the functioning of the platform are also provided.

10 broad key topics targeted

There is a large space for Europeans to express themselves, since 10 broad key topics are being targeted:

- Climate change and the environment;
- Health;
- A stronger economy, social justice and jobs;
- EU in the world;
- Values and rights, rule of law, security;
- Digital transformation;
- European democracy;
- Migration;
- Education, culture, youth and sport;
- Other ideas.

It is worth noting that sport is featured among these topics, allowing citizens to express themselves on the future of sport in the EU.

[Rules of participation](#) have been set up, and the platform moderators can hide messages that do not respect these rules.

Successful kick-off

As of 3rd May 2021, more than 6,800 participants subscribed to the platform, almost 350 events have been registered, 1,300 ideas submitted, and 2,500 comments written. EU citizens showed a particular interest for sport-related topics, since already 21 ideas were shared on sport and four sport "events" (discussions) were organised. These numbers drastically rise on a daily basis, showing how attractive and useful the platform can be for the European citizens.

In-person events' rules of procedures

An inaugural hybrid (in-person and online) event is supposed to take place on Europe Day, on 9 May 2021 in Strasbourg, France. The CoFoE Executive Board met on 22 April 2021 and pursued to fine-tune arrangements prior to this inaugural event. The Presidents of the three EU institutions, the Executive Board members, designated observers, as well as 200 remote citizens are expected to take part in the event.

According to the Principles and the Scope of the Conference, citizens' panels shall represent the EU's diversity, in terms of geographic origin, gender, age, socioeconomic background and level of education. Therefore, citizens' panels shall comprise at least one female and one male citizen per member states, and young people between 16 and 25 will make up one-third of each panel.

Topics



Climate change and the
environment



Health



A stronger economy, social
justice and jobs



EU in the world



Values and rights, rule of
law, security



Digital transformation



European democracy



Migration



Education, culture, youth
and sport



Other ideas

Next steps

Parliament's Co-Chair of the Executive Board, Guy Verhofstadt, identified what should now follow from the Executive Board: "(...) The next step is to set up the Plenary to reflect Europe's diversity of opinion and take up the ideas and suggestions from citizens, on which the success of the Conference depends."

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Access to the platform](#)

[List of events registered](#)

[Call for proposals: Erasmus+ Programme](#)

[Q/A on the platform](#)

Provisional agreement on the European Climate Law

One year and one month after the publication, by the Commission, of the proposal for the European Climate Law, European Parliament and Council's negotiators reached a [provisional agreement](#) on "[the law of laws](#)."

The Climate Law will have an important impact across the EU and beyond as it makes the key goal of the European Green Deal - reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% below 1990 levels by 2030, and achieving climate neutrality by 2050 - legally binding. Besides these two crucial commitments, the agreed text also sets out, among other things, a process for establishing a 2040 climate target, and commits the EU to negative emissions after 2050.

Before entering into force, the agreed text will still need to be formally approved by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

Even though the sport sector may not be directly affected by the Climate Law once implemented, the transition to a low-carbon economy across the EU to achieve the 55% reduction target will have a significant (indirect) impact on all economic and societal sectors, including sports. More details about the way forward will be unveiled in the "[Fit for 55 Package](#)", which the Commission aims to publish later this year.

The Package is to cover many policy areas ranging from energy performance of buildings and energy efficiency (could be interesting for sport infrastructure), to measures aiming to implement EU Circular Economy Action Plan or the EU biodiversity Strategy (both interesting in particular for sport events and sport in nature).

In the field of EU sport policy, the European Commission, with the mandate from the EU Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024, has established a new Expert Group on "Green Sport" to contribute to the role and understanding of sport in this important area. The [first meeting](#) of the Expert Group will take place on 4 May 2021.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Provisional agreement on the European Climate Law](#)

[European Green Deal](#)

The European Week of Sport goes Beyond Borders

Representatives of Western Balkans, Eastern Partnerships and EU countries met on 19 April 2021 to discuss the implementation of the European Week of Sport (EWOs) beyond EU borders and exchange good practice examples. Originally planned to take place in Podgorica, Montenegro, [the fourth edition of the seminar](#) had to be moved online due to continuing Covid-19-related travel restrictions.

EU Commissioner for Sport Mariya Gabriel [opened the event](#) with a pointy reminder of the impact Covid-19 had on the sport sector, and how it has clearly demonstrated that the practice of sport and physical activity is fundamental for our wellbeing. She underlined international cooperation as an important priority in sport policy, referring to previous and ongoing efforts by the EU in this area, including the opening of the EWOs to the Eastern Partnerships and Western Balkan countries, as well as the new dedicated budget and features of the Erasmus+ programme.

The “exchange” part of the event was kicked-off by Sergey Bubka, President of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, EWOs National Coordinator. In his keynote speech, he highlighted the role of the EU in modern society. “Youth”, he said, “are one of the most important strategic resources of our society”. He suggested a number of ways, as a collective, that we could bring greater interest and participation of youth in sport, spotlighting the IOC’s Youth Olympic Games and EOC’s European Youth Olympic Festivals. Bubka referred to IOC President Bach’s view on the role of sport in the pandemic recovery and highlighted initiatives which have positively contributed so far, such as the activities of the UN General Assembly or the European Parliament with its resolution on sport.

The novelty of this year’s seminar was the close involvement of young people – all current or former athletes – from the two neighbouring regions, who shared their experiences and ideas on how to motivate young people to be physically active and lead a healthy lifestyle in the “new normal”.

The last part of the seminar consisted of a panel discussion with four high level experts on sport governance and promotion of physical activity. Claudia Bokel, President of the German Fencing Federation, and former chair of the IOC Athletes’ Commission, highlighted the importance of finding the right sport(s) for children so that they truly enjoy the activity. She also touched upon the negative impact of the current crisis on sport, and, in particular, on the participation in sport of women and girls and noted that this topic was to be addressed by the newly formed High-Level Group on Gender Equality.

Luka Živić, Counsellor for Education, Youth and Sport at Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU highlighted that promoting physical activity was a key priority for the Slovenian Presidency which begins its term in July 2021. He outlined the Presidency’s intention to create a new concept at EU level: a lifelong physical activity (taking example of Lifelong Education). “Together with member states, the EU Commission and stakeholders, we wish to present this concept, link it with existing initiatives, like Commission activities on HealthyLifestyles4All, and hopefully come up with an ambitious plan/follow up activities regarding different aspects that are included in this concept of lifelong physical activity”, he said. By different aspects, it is specifically meant monitoring of physical and motor development, dual careers, regular physical activity and appropriate physical fitness of adults, as well as the cross-sector cooperation between sport, education and health authorities and the role of media.

The European Week of Sport was launched in 2015, and will be held, like every year, from the 23 to the 30 of September 2021.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[The European Week of Sport](#)

[April Virtual Seminar Programme](#)

A Common Framework Against Racism and Hate Speech at Sports Event: The Saint-Denis Convention

On 14 April 2021 the [Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport](#) (EPAS) held an online leadership dialogue on racism and hate speech at sports events. The event was organised within the framework of the first meeting of the Committee of the [Saint-Denis Convention](#), which has an aim of increasing the safety, security at and inclusivity of football matches and other sports events.

To discuss existing and emerging challenges, a panel of speakers in leadership positions addressed racism and hate speech from various perspectives. These consisted of:

- Maria Daniella Marouda, Chair of the EU Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)
- Roxana Maracineanu, French Minister of Sports
- Michele Uva, Football and Social Responsibility Director, UEFA
- Clarence Seedorf, Football legend and coach
- Ronan Evain, Executive Director, Football Supporters Europe

After welcoming participants, Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director of Anti-Discrimination, Directorate General of Democracy-DGII, Council of Europe, gave the floor to Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe. Berge highlighted the Council of Europe's (CoE) firm and relentless commitment to fight racism and hate speech. "The Saint-Denis Convention itself", he said "sets out the requirements for a truly integrated safety, security, and service approach at football matches and other sports events". However, with hate based on race, religion, sexuality, gender and other factors remaining an unwelcome and unacceptable fact, he expressed the CoE's eagerness to build on existing relationships with sports organisations, and forge new ones, in an attempt to combat it.

When asked if things had improved or worsened in the field of sport in recent years, Marouda spoke of ECRI's findings that racism and intolerance prevailed in sport. Maracineanu, echoing this, then provided concrete recommendations and described the specific roles of each stakeholder in the fight against racism.

In identifying the main challenges and what has been done so far, Uva discussed several of UEFA's social responsibility campaigns, including Respect and #EqualGame. Seedorf provided his own suggestions for concrete actions, this time from a player and coach perspective. Finally, Evain injected the view of supporters in the dialogue, by discussing current weaknesses and possibilities for the Saint Denis Committee to take up these issues.

The second round of the session consisted of a deeper insight into manifestations of intolerance and hate speech, and the kind of measures that are specifically being taken to address them.

Overall, it can be said that two key ideas emerged:

1. That sport is a reflection of what is happening in society at large: the mirror effect
2. A multi-stakeholder responsibility and response is needed to fight these phenomena

Moderator Jeroen Schokkenbroek concluded the event by wishing success to the state parties to the Convention with their very first meeting, that same day.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Summary and link to the EPAS event](#)



PARTNERS' CORNER

Funding Seminar: Erasmus+ Call 2021

On 17 April 2021, the EOC EU Office held an online seminar on the Erasmus+ call 2021 and provided its partners with some global information on the new 2021-2027 Erasmus+ Programme as well as key elements for a successful application.

Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, launched the event with some words on the new funding period 2021-2027 and funding brochure that the Office is currently preparing. He also introduced the new EU Funding Officer Carlotta Guissani, who will join the team as of 1 May.

Practical information

Thereafter, some practical information was provided on the new Erasmus+ Programme's structure, guide, key priorities, as well as funding & tender opportunities portal. Following this overview, new policy priorities and objectives of the Erasmus+ Sport for partnerships and events were introduced, including further explanations on the three types of activities which include cooperation partnerships, small-scale partnerships, and not-for-profit European sport events.

Key elements for a successful application

The second part of the seminar was dedicated to outlining the key elements for a successful application. The deadline set for 20 May 2021 has meant applicants will not have a lot of time to prepare and submit their applications through the portal. Tips on application preparation steps such as consistency, partners selection, budget assessment, and methodology related to compulsory work packages were provided.

Last but not least, all partners and participants were invited to get in touch to request bilateral meetings with the Office on their potential project ideas and application progress.

The EOC EU Office warmly thanks all participants for attending the seminar.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Post on Twitter](#)

[Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#)

[Call for proposals: Erasmus+ Programme](#)



The EOC EU Office welcomes Carlotta Giussani as its new EU Funding Officer and team member



We are pleased to welcome Carlotta Giussani as our new EU Funding Officer to join the EOC EU Office team.

The new position was created with the aim of increasing the access for funding to all partner organisations of the EOC EU Office.

Her main tasks will include:

- The coordination of all EU funding-related activities of the EOC EU Office
- Acting as the main EU funding counterpart for partner organisations of the EOC EU Office
- Advising to partner organisation on project applications
- Writing project applications
- Organising training seminars and other educational activities aiming to raise awareness, inform, and train partner organisation on EU funding opportunities for sport.

Born in Rome in 1990, Carlotta obtained a Master diploma in Sport and International Development in 2016 at the University of Brighton. She is an experienced project designer/manager in the area of sport and physical activity with a comprehensive understanding of the organisational structures of European sport, European institutions and funding programmes. She enjoys working in a high paced and internationally diverse working environment. A combination of her professional qualifications in Project Management and Coaching Education, broad work-experience and academic studies have provided her with the skills to manage effectively a wide variety of tasks of both a practical and intellectual nature.

We are looking forward to working with her and seeing her evolve in this new position!



UPCOMING EVENTS

17 - 18 May 2021

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (Council of the EU - Brussels)

31 May 2021

POINTS Final Conference (EOC EU Office - online meeting)

08 - 09 June 2021

EU Sport Forum (European Commission - online meeting)

09 June 2021

EOC Executive Committee (EOC - Athens)

10 - 11 June 2021

General Assembly (EOC - Athens)



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