

## Tweets of the month



### POINTS PROJECT

@POINTS\_EU Mar 27

In 5 days we will be in @DOSB HQ in Frankfurt for our educational seminar for SPOCs on Good Governance Maria Clarke (sport lawyer), @rowlandjack (founder @itrustsport) and @VPanangipalli (Governance Manager @sportrectweets) will be our speakers

### EurOlympic

@EOCmedia Mar 15

Athletes Seminar jointly organised by @EOCEUOffice and @iocmedia in Brussels focused on ways to better coordinate efforts of different Athletes' Commissions and the #EuropeanModelOfSport Find out more here <https://bit.ly/2TNsBfY>

### POINTS Project

@POINTS\_EU Mar 8

Today in @coe Brussels office to present @POINTS\_EU project during the Advisory Meeting of @KCOOS\_coe. Interesting exchanges on synergies and potential cooperation. @EuSport @GLMS\_Sport #integrity

### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Mar 6

It was a real pleasure to welcome in our office participants from the sixth promotion of the #ParcoursAmbitionInternationale, organised by @FranceOlympique, for lively discussions about @EuSport Policy We hope you enjoyed your time in #Brussels!

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## *The House of European Sport*

### EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

With the EU Sports Forum on 8-9 April in Bucharest, the Romanian EU Presidency is organising the most important sports policy event of the European Union in 2019. The event will cover both important topics relevant to grassroots sport and elite sport.

The ambitious programme includes panel discussions on the future of the European Sport Model (with EOC President Janez Kocijancic), on doping (with Witold Banka, Europe's candidate for the WADA Presidency), on the rights of athletes (with Danka Bartekova, Vice-Chairman of the IOC Athletes' Commission), on the future of major sporting events in Europe (including Sergey Bubka, NOK President of Ukraine), on jurisdiction in sport (including Mathieu Reeb, Secretary General of CAS) and on financing grassroots sport in Europe (including Folker Hellmund, Director EOC EU Office). Never before the proportion of speakers from the Olympic environment has been higher than at this forum. This also illustrates the growing interest in this event, which will be held for the last time under the aegis of EU Commissioner Navracsics.

The Forum reflects topics that are discussed controversially in international sport and that has ended up more often in legal disputes. There are many reasons for this development. The increasing commercialisation of top-level sport is one of them. New players are entering the playing field and claiming their share of the cake. Private organisers who do not wish to contribute to the solidarity-based financing model of sport often receive legal backing from European competition law and can only be kept away from the organisation of sporting events in exceptional cases, such as disregard for safety aspects. Whether this development is positive or negative for sport essentially depends on the type of sport concerned and on how the cooperation with organised sport is regulated. For less popular sports, cooperation with private organisers can certainly offer advantages, especially when it comes to raising awareness.

However, at the end of the day it's a question of the future financing of organised sport at all levels. If the revenues from media rights or ticket sales would decrease considerably due to private competitors, the impact on sport would be enormous. Even now, a number of international events can only be financed by federations benefiting from the IOC's returns. In this regard, sport federations are called upon to make their own events more attractive so that they can survive in the market.

Top athletes are also more likely to appeal to the courts. The latest decision of the German Cartel Office on Rule 40 of the Olympic Charter and the ruling of the EFTA Court in the Kristoffersen case are just two recent examples where athletes claim better conditions for their marketing opportunities. However, judicial disputes should always be the "ultima ratio". The aim should always be to create a fair balance of interests between federations and athletes that makes in the future court decisions obsolete.

Enjoy your read,



Folker Hellmund  
Director

## EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

### Sport & Regional Development: The Future of Sport in European Cities

On 6 March 2019, the Sports Intergroup together with the URBAN Intergroup, organised a Conference on the topic of “Sport & Regional Development - The Future of Sport in European Cities.” The topic was introduced by Jan Olbrycht, President of the Urban Intergroup, who stressed that sport on European level is partly reduced to a “business that is involving private money”. He stated that a focus should be more on the societal benefits of sport. Sport should be considered as an investment opportunity that can trigger activities on local and regional level. The Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor Navracsics underlined Mr. Olbrychts words by saying that sport needs to be seen as a “community building exercise”, which happens at local level. He further explained that boundaries of policy areas need to be broken down to ensure an appropriate holistic approach that meets the needs of citizens and exploits the potential of sport that otherwise would remain untapped.

The first panel, which discussed the role of sport and physical activity as drivers for vibrant regions and cohesive communities, was led by the EOC EU-Office Director Folker Hellmund backed Mr Olbrycht and Commissioner Navracsics position. Furthermore, he stressed that sport should be better positioned in the ongoing negotiations for the upcoming European Multiannual Financial Framework. UEFA Vice-President Karl Nilsson, demanded a stronger focus on infrastructure investments for the grassroots level and underlined that investments in professional sport should be financed differently. The other panellists, namely the Co-chair of the Sports Intergroup, MEP Santiago Fisas, the Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions Markku Markkula and Benjamin Baretts, Member of Cabinet of the Commissioner Cretu (Regional Policy), provided further arguments and examples

why sports need to be fostered in cities and regions. Mr. Fisas for instance described how the Olympic Games of Barcelona were used strategically to develop the city and region of Barcelona and Mr. Markkula outlined that an investment in sport on the regional level generates returns of social inclusion, tourism and health. Mr. Baretts further outlined the common perspective of the panel, reiterating that “sport is an activity of general interest”.

The second Panel was guided by MEP Jordi Sole and dealt with benefits of sport & physical activity at local level – good practices. Ms. Hakvoort and Ms. Verschoore, who represented the cities of Amsterdam and Ghent, provided interesting examples on their approaches to tackle the problem of inactivity among its citizens and showed how variable and distinct solutions can look like. The representative of Sport and Citizenship, Maxim Leblanc, thereby constituted that the problem of inactivity is further increased by the fact that most of the local decision makers are not aware and can thus do not act. Randall Rzewnicki, from the European Cycling Federation, outlined the advantages and benefits cycling has, especially for cities and citizens.

The conference was concluded by Lucian Mircescu, the Chairman of the Working Party on Sport, who stressed the importance of institutional cooperations to fully exploit the benefits of sport for regional development.

The SportHub: Alliance for Regional development in Europe (SHARE initiative) that had supported the event in the EP subsequently met on the 11 March in order to discuss their next activities. A contribution to the EU Sustainable Energy Week and Week of Cities and Regions was envisioned.

## Mobility of professional ski instructors in the EU enhanced

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After a number of years of work and preparations, the European Commission has adopted a [new common training test \(CTT\) for ski instructors](#) to facilitate the recognition of their qualifications. Exploiting for the first time the opportunity provided by the [Revised Professional Qualifications Directive \(2015\)](#), the Commission has worked with Member States and relevant stakeholders to create this novel instrument to facilitate the access of professional instructors to activities in other Member States, while ensuring the high level of skills and knowledge of safety and environmental issues needed.

The CTT does not harmonise national rules and is thus voluntary in nature for the Member States. What it does is to offer those, who have passed the aptitude test, to pursue their profession in any host Member State concerned under the same conditions as the holders of a professional qualification acquired in that Member State. The CTT builds on the previously adopted Memorandum of Understanding, which constituted a pilot project for professionals having passed the Eurotest and the Eurosecurity test, and which was signed by eleven EU Member States. The provisions agreed in the Memorandum have been taken into account as basis for the new regulation establishing the CTT, in particular in the technical parts describing how the tests should be organised.

All citizens of the EU, and not only those from Member States regulating the ski instructor profession, who hold or who are in training to obtain a qualification listed in the Annex to the

Commission Delegated [Regulation](#) (each Member State has identified an appropriate qualification and an awarding institution) will be entitled to participate in the CTT. After a candidate passed the CTT, each Member State should recognise that the successful completion of the CTT effectively gives the said candidate access to the professional activities of ski instructors under the same conditions as the holders of professional qualifications acquired in that Member State.

The EP and the Council have 2 months to scrutinise the Commission Delegated Regulation, after which the act will enter into force 20 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the EU.

The topic of mutual recognition of professional qualifications in sport has been on the EU's agenda for a number of years; and with it the particular issue of ski instructors' qualifications as it is regulated in 13 EU Member States and is characterised by an important need for mobility. The subject has been dealt with by the Commission Expert Groups and followed up by Council Expert Groups under both the 2011-2014 and the 2015-2017 Work Plans. To get an overview of the situation and prepare the grounds for the establishment of the CTT, the Commission published in 2016 a [short study](#) mapping the ski instructors' qualification environment in the EU Member States.

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### MORE INFORMATION

[EOC EU Office article on the subject from 2016](#)

## The House of European Sport

### Parliament approves agreements on Copyright Directive and Directive on Online Transmissions

In its plenary session at the end of March, the European Parliament (EP) approved two legislative agreements that EP negotiators had found with the European Commission and Council representatives.

On 26 March, the European Parliament voted in favour of the new Copyright Directive, while it approved new rules facilitating access to online TV and radio content across borders on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Unfortunately, the agreement on Copyright did not take up important points regarding the protection of sport event organisers. It does not include the neighbouring right for sports rights owners as proposed by the EP and introduces exemptions regarding the take down of infringing content for content sharing platforms, both representing negative aspects for sports. The European Commission did however publish a legally non-binding statement saying that *“the Commission acknowledges the importance of sports events organisations and their role in financing of sport activities in the Union. In view of the societal and economic dimension of sport in the Union, the Commission will assess the challenges of sport event organisers in the digital environment, in particular issues related to the illegal online transmissions of sport broadcasts”*.

It’s positive to state, that the Directive on “online transmissions of broadcasting organisations and retransmissions of television and radio programmes” excludes sport live broadcasts from its extension of the “Country of Origin” principle. This would have allowed license holders to extent their broadcast beyond the licensed territory online. The possibility of retransmission by online services was however also extended to sport broadcasts, although license holders do hold a veto over this.

Both directives will probably be approved by the Council of the EU in the course of April, with EU Member States having two years to implement them into national law.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Commission – Press release \(28/03/2019\): “Commission welcomes European Parliament's vote on new rules facilitating access to online TV and radio content across borders”](#)

[European Commission – Press release \(26/03/2019\): “Copyright reform: the Commission welcomes European Parliament's vote in favour of modernised rules fit for digital age”](#)

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### Summer time – vote EP Plenary

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In its plenary meeting on 26 March 2019, the EP voted to end the practice of adjusting clocks in spring and autumn by 2021.

The adopted regulation initially resulted from a people's initiative which resulted in over 4.6 million responses in an assessment of the Commission, of which 84% were in favour of stopping the time shifts. Subsequently the Commission created a proposal to end time shifts by 2019, which was rescheduled to 2021 and backed by the EP Plenary with 410 votes in favour, 192 votes against and 51 abstentions. The decision if summer or wintertime will be kept, however, lies within the responsibility of each individual member state. A common decision on that matter is likely, as a disruption of the proper functioning of the single market needs to be avoided. The final decision of the ministers is to be made and communicated until April 2020. The

Parliament will then start negotiations with EU ministers to discuss the final wording of the regulation.

The German Olympic Committee (DOSB) argued in its position paper, that only a constant summer time would allow the current culture and practice of sport in Germany to remain as it is. A constant winter time would reduce daylight hours in the evening, which are crucial for outdoor sports in summer and winter. In addition, the problematic shortage of overall indoor training hours across sports due to the shortage of facilities would be aggravated. Besides, a constant winter time would also impact on the social sports-life of kids, the culture of non-governmental sport and the sustainability of sport.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[The text adopted by the EP Plenary](#)

## *The House of European Sport*

### EU Commission organises Sport breakfast on Betting in Sport

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On 20 March 2019, the Sport Unit of the European Commission organised the fifth edition of the Sport Unit Breakfast. This initiative aims to bring together representatives of the Unit, other representatives of the European Commission and external speakers in order to discuss current topics. This meeting was related to the effects of betting on sport and shed light on its downsides and advantages.

Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit, welcomed the participants and introduced the speakers, which included Dr. Ekaterina Hartmann, Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs at the European Gambling and Betting Association (EGBA), Silvia Paleari, Senior Public Affairs Manager from ESSA Sports Betting Integrity, and Ramune Bistrickaitė from the Ethisport Company.

Dr. Hartmann and Ms Paleari presented the perspective of sports betting companies on the sector's interaction with sport and how national regulations should frame a betting market that creates legal opportunities to gamble in order to avoid a drain into illegal betting offers. They especially focused on provision of sponsoring and

the fact that member states can reinvest tax income into sports.

Final conclusions were offered by Mrs. Bistrickaitė. She supported the statement that legal sports betting can contribute to sport in financial ways. However, a greater balance is needed in relation to financial return to sport and also greater responsibility from the Member States in terms of clarity and protection, as they are currently responsible for their regulations.

In the subsequent discussions, several participants questioned the presented considerations, with especially Member State representatives insisting on the desired impact of regulations to curb gambling. The need to ensure a fair return of income to sport organisations was equally raised.

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## FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND STUDIES

### European Parliament includes sport in positions on future funding

During one of its last plenary sessions before the May elections, the European Parliament has adopted four important reports outlining its position to future EU funding programmes beyond 2021. In its votes on 26, 27 and 28 March 2019 the EP agreed its negotiating position on the future of [Erasmus+](#), the [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#) and two funding instruments in the EU's external relations – the [Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance III \(IPA III\)](#) covering the EU accessions countries and the [Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument \(NDICI\)](#), which brings together several current programmes targeting both geographical regions (including Eastern Europe) and thematic areas (e.g. support to human rights). The EOC EU Office has made a considerable effort to actively engage with Members of the European Parliament regarding these reports in order include clear mentions for sport. Due to this work with the EP, several positive sport-related amendments in thematic priorities have been achieved.

#### **Erasmus+**

The adopted position of the EP in regard to Erasmus+ can be deemed positive for the European sport movement. The Parliament is proposing to triple the budget of Erasmus+ (the European Commission had proposed doubling the funds) and included mobility activities for *“young people practising, and sport staff engaged in, grassroots sport”* as well as *“not-for-profit grassroots sport events, including small-scale events”*. The EP also seeks to open the possibility for international mobility in sport.

#### **IPA III**

The EP's position on the IPA III proposal includes sport-related amendments in thematic priorities for

both general assistance and assistance for cross-border cooperation. The EP stresses, for example, that “access to lifelong learning and physical activity should be strengthened” and “investment in education and training and sport infrastructure particularly with a view to reducing territorial disparities and fostering non-segregated education and including through the use of digital technologies should be supported.”

#### **NDICI**

However, the NDICI report is even more supportive to the role of sport in external affairs. MEPs have included 5 sport-related articles in the final text, including a reference to sport among the European Neighbourhood area objectives. In the “areas of cooperation”, the EP's report goes even further (on the proposal of the EOC EU Office: “Supporting actions, and promoting cooperation, in the area of sport to contribute to the empowerment of women, young people, individuals and communities as well as to the health, education and social inclusion objectives of the 2030 Agenda.”

#### **ERDF**

The European Parliament's position on the European Regional Development Fund includes sport in three aspects of the specific objectives (Art. 2):

“improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and life long learning and sport through developing accessible infrastructure and services;”

“fostering integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism also



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through the tourist districts, sports and security in urban areas, including functional urban areas;”

“fostering integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism also through the tourist districts, sports and security, all at local level, rural, mountain, islands and coastal regions, isolated and sparsely populated and all other areas that have difficulty accessing basic services including also on NUTS 3 level, through territorial and local development strategies, [...]”

### **Next Steps**

The EP’s reports form the first part of the legislative process at the end of which the respective regulations establishing the new funding instruments will be adopted. The ball is

now on the side of the Council of the EU to agree its position, which will then be confronted with the EP’s one and with the European Commission’s original proposal during the so-called Trialogue.

While the Council has already reached its agreement – General Partial Approach – on the IPA III, it is yet to agree its position on the NDICI. Regarding Erasmus+, the ministers reached an agreement on a partial general approach, which excludes budget-related issues and figures, on 26 November 2018. The Romanian Presidency also agreed a new compromise text on ERDF and Cohesion Fund in January.

The EOC EU Office will keep closely following the process and will do its best to support the EP’s position and with it the sport-related articles.

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## New Study on Corruption in Sport - “Mapping of Corruption in Sport in the EU”

On 21 January 2019, the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture from the European Commission published a study, which mapped corruption in sport in the EU. Ecorys was commissioned in July 2018 to undertake the mapping review across all 28 countries.

Recent high profile cases of corruption in sport have shown the potential damage corruption cases can cause to sport’s reputation for integrity and fair play. Corruption has been shown to manifest in varying contexts, ranging from non-profit community-based activities to activities involving high profile international events. The study lists the different types of corruption unique to the industry, namely match-fixing, doping, bribery, money laundering, illegal betting, tax evasion and commercial tricks before focusing on some concrete cases from the eleven countries where systematic review of available evidence was possible. Five main recommendations conclude the study:

1. Supporting mechanisms for cooperation in addressing corruption
2. Enhancing knowledge on sport and corruption across the EU
3. Support the development of good practice sharing and dissemination
4. Support the development of common understanding of appropriate and proportionate penalties for corruption activities
5. Support the development of common definitions and measurement frameworks for ‘good governance’ and its component parts

During February’s meeting in Larnaca, held by the European Commission’s Expert Group on “Integrity in Sport”, several concerns regarding the study were raised by Member States and observers. Indeed, some Member States deplored the focus put on Manipulation of Competitions

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when the request was to emphasise other aspects of corruption for the preparation of the future Finnish Presidency of the EU. Another question was on the accuracy of the data as some examples appear outdated and/or not taking into account the recent developments occurred within several Member States. Finally participants regret the lack of precision in the recommendations which remain very general.

Discussions will take place between the different actors to see the follow-up to give to the study. It is welcomed, to observe developments and improvements on previously established counter-

measures, such as stricter legal penalties, preventive measures also implemented by multi-stakeholder groups and the promotion of “good governance” practices in sport federations.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Study - Mapping Corruption in Sport in the EU](#)

## INTERNAL AND VISITS

### Athletes meet in Brussels for the 3<sup>rd</sup> IOC-EOC EU Office Athletes' Seminar



Following the successful organisation of Athletes' Seminar in Brussels, in 2013 and 2016, the EOC EU Office, in collaboration with the IOC, organised on 11 and 12 March once again an Athletes seminar to discuss topics of most relevance to them. Finally, 19 European athletes' representatives from the EOC, IOC, WADA, IF and NOC Athletes' Commissions (ACs) met at the EOC EU Office.

In their introductory speeches Kaveh Mehrabi (IOC), Folker Hellmund (EOC EU Office) and the chair of the EOC Athletes Commission, Gerd Kanter underlined the importance to establish a more regular exchange of views between athletes and sport organisations. The first session focused on practical suggestions to better organise and coordinate the work of the different ACs. In this regard, enhancing the effectiveness of the work of ACs as well as the Communication between ACs and also with other stakeholders, was discussed by the participants.

The athletes started the day by discussing all positive achievements that took place in the past few years to improve the expertise of ACs as well as to make their voice count in the decision making of sport organisations. In this regard, the

IOC stressed its permanent availability to provide legal advices and support to all ACs as well as the ongoing initiatives, notably at ANOC level, to encourage continental organisation to further support the work of ACs. All participants agreed that the Athletes' declaration, adopted by the IOC in October 2018, will also contribute to increase the commitment of sport organisations towards their ACs.

Then, participants exchanges good practices on solutions to answer their daily challenges with the management of the work of the ACs. The necessity to receive support from professional staff members, to establish a clear strategy at the beginning of the term or to identify individuals within the board or among the staff with an interest for Athletes' activities were notably mentioned.

Some solutions to increase the expertise and involvement of members in the ACs work were also explored, including a pre-selection of the candidates based on expertise and availability. Another idea was, to better divide tasks in order to empower members with specific responsibilities or the involvement of athletes that are not AC members in some meetings to encourage them to take an active role in the future.

During the second session, topics such as the European Sport Model, EU Competition Policy, Dual Careers of Athletes or the possibilities offered by the Erasmus+ programme were also presented and discussed with the athletes during a session dedicated to European Union. Participants also exchanged on the representation of ACs at EU level, stressing the need get more AC members involved in meetings, seminars or hearings organised by the EU, the Council of Europe or other relevant organisers.

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Finally, the second day gave the opportunity for athletes' representatives to hold interesting discussions and debates on several topics such as the Olympic Movement Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration, the fight against doping, the role of the IOC in Athletes' support and the application of the Rule 40 of the Olympic Charter.

The EOC EU Office would like to thank all participants for their fruitful contributions as well as the IOC (Kaveh Mehrabi, Karen Dolphin, Daniel Marchi) and Jan Paterson for the excellent cooperation.

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## The EOC EU Office welcomed representatives of French national federations for a meeting of the "Parcours Ambition Internationale"

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On 16-17 May the French Olympic Committee (CNOSF) organised a visit in Brussels for the participants of its programme "Parcours Ambition Internationale". The objective was to learn more about EU sport policy by meeting with several representatives of the EU institutions. Created in 2013, this programme intends to support annually, French high representatives in their commitment and activities within European and international sport organisations. This year, 25 participants from different national federations, including 7 athletes, are involved in the programme. The objective of the Parcours Ambition Internationale is to improve participants' ability to evolve in an international environment by exchanging with actors involved in international sport organisations.

Following two first meetings in Paris, the participants came for a two days session in Brussels to receive a comprehensive overview on the EU sport policy and sport lobbying activities with a presentation made by the EOC EU Office.

The EU projects conducted by the Office, namely POINTS and SIGGS have also been presented to the participants.

The group then received the latest information regarding the Erasmus+ programme with the intervention Luciano Di Fonzo, from the EACEA. The day was concluded by an introduction to the international activities of the Czech Olympic Committee made by Jana Janotová. Participants demonstrated a strong interest for the EU project "Sport Parks Inspired by the Olympics" managed by the Czech NOC.

The second day put the focus on EU institutions activities with two presentations from Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit of the European Commission and Alexandre Husting, attaché at the Luxembourg Permanent representation.

The final meeting of the Parcours Ambition Internationale will be held in May, in Lausanne.

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## PARTNERS' CORNER

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### ENGSO Erasmus+ project: Sports clubs to become CHAMPions of modernisation

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The European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO) has kicked off their new Erasmus+ collaborative partnership, whose objective is to help sports clubs modernise and thus increase physical activity levels. The project called CHAMP (Clubs for Health-enhancement, Activation, Modernisation and Participation) aims to give the sport movement innovative tools and education for modernisation, offering fresh insights in current trends and solutions.

During the 30-month project lifetime, the partners will collect and analyse scientific research regarding the benefits of modernisation for organised sport, as well as innovative practices inside and outside of the traditional sports movement. The findings will be utilised and shared in an online learning platform that is free for users and open for all. The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is planned to be launched during the second half of 2020, and everyone

working in and around sports clubs will be welcome to join.

The project partners involved in CHAMP are the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE), Swedish Sports Confederation, Lithuanian Union of Sport Federations, Estonian Foundation of Sport Education and Information, OPES - Organizzazione Per l'Educazione allo Sport, NOC & Sports Confederation of Denmark, Latvian Sports Federations Council and Portuguese Sports Confederation.

The kick-off meeting of CHAMP was organised in Stockholm on 6–7th of March 2019.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[CHAMP on Facebook](#)

[Article on the CHAMP kick-off meeting](#)

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## NEXT MONTH

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<b>1-3 April</b>	POINTS Seminar, Frankfurt
<b>8-9 April</b>	EU Sport Forum, Bucharest
<b>13-15 April</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> International Athletes Forum, Lausanne
<b>29-30 April</b>	Conference on Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Sports, Helsinki